University of Maryland School of Medicine



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DEAN'S MESSAGE: What's On My Mind

hat's on my mind this month is our LCME accreditation. The Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) is the nationally recognized accrediting authority for medical education programs leading to the MD degree in American and Canadian medical schools. The LCME is sponsored by the Association of American Medical

Colleges and the American Medical Association. LCME accreditation is required for schools to receive federal grants for medical education and to participate in federal loan programs. Most state boards of licensure require that US medical schools be accredited by the LCME, as a condition for licensure of their graduates.

The maximum term of accreditation is eight years, which we were granted in 2000. Therefore, it is again our turn to be reviewed. The LCME review is a broad-based and inclusive process, and the task force I appointed included administrative faculty, senior faculty, junior faculty, part-time faculty, volunteer faculty, representatives of affiliate institutions, students from all classes and administrative staff.

Within the task force were five subcommittees (institutional setting, educational programs, medical students, faculty and educational resources) and an independent medical student committee which conducted a survey of all medical students. The 18-month process began in the summer of 2006 with a self-study.

The task force prepared a self-study report, which was submitted to the LCME on November 8th. The next step is a survey site visit, which will be conducted here at the medical school from February 10-13, 2008. The reviewers, upon their departure, will deliver to me an oral report of their summary findings. Four to six weeks later we will receive the draft survey report, on which we will be able to comment, and then some time later we will receive the final survey report and letter of accreditation, hopefully without citations and for another eight years.

In its 2000 report, the LCME outlined 18 Institutional Strengths, three Areas of Concern and six Opportunities for Improvement. The task force noted in our 2007 self-study report that the previously-reported strengths continue to be strengths for the School of Medicine.

Among our many strengths, we continue to have an effective strategic planning process and strong leadership across the School of Medicine. We have very talented students who come from diverse backgrounds, who thrive on our support structures which are readily available and effective. Our department chairs and faculty are equally diverse and talented. We, and our hospital partners, have demonstrated financial strength and growth in clinical programs, and preclinical and clinical teaching sites remain an excellent training environment for our students. Despite limited financial means, our faculty is extraordinarily productive—our research programs have grown and our national ranking has increased even in the face of a reduced NIH budget.

We took very seriously the items noted in Areas of Concern and Opportunities for Improvement, and we are hopeful these issues were not only satisfactorily addressed, but that they become strengths in the 2008 report. Our primary challenge is to manage competing priorities and maintain a balance among our missions. Faculty support requires human and financial resources devoted to mentoring junior faculty, retaining senior faculty and maintaining current levels of academic scholarship. Likewise, funding is critical to maintain our state-of-the-art research capabilities and develop new research programs. Clinical activity, an extremely important mission, demands an increasing amount of faculty time. Keeping our clinical and research missions balanced with our education mission—the reason we are all here—requires constant attention and careful allocation of resources.

I want to thank the entire LCME task force for their hard work, particularly task force co-chair, Bruce E. Jarrell, MD, vice dean for Research and Academic Affairs, who did a terrific job coordinating this project. My special thanks also go to David Ingle, director of Academic Administration, Angelina Battaglia, program director in the Office of Medical Education, and John Raczek, Web developer in the Office of Medical Education, for their hard work on this critical project. I also want to thank each and every one of you, who every day work so hard to make the University of Maryland School of Medicine the outstanding institution that it is indeed.

In the relentless pursuit of excellence, I am

Sincerely yours,

E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA

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Vice President for Medical Affairs, University of Maryland John Z. and Akiko K. Bowers Distinguished Professor and

Dean, School of Medicine

Get Fit Maryland™ **Receives National Award**

Get Fit Maryland™, a partnership of the University of Mary-Center, and Merritt Athletic Clubs, has been chosen as a national Innovation in Prevention Award winner by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) for its efforts in promoting healthy lifestyles in communities. The award was presented during the Innovation in Prevention Awards Luncheon in Washington, DC, as part of the HHS 2007 National Prevention Summit.

HealthierUS initiative and HHS's continuing focus on highlighting preventive health and recognizing organizations that implement innovative approaches to address chronic

> has been named as Faith-based and Community-based award, due to its success in raising health awareness in Maryland children

and adults. is an example of how a targeted program can encourage people of all ages to make healthy lifestyle deci sions," HHS Secretary "That the program has gained such interest by diverse organiza-



The Get Fit Maryland™ program is an innovative 12-week walking program targeting obesity, diabetes lose or maintain a healthy weight, and make important lifestyle changes.

The program initially targeted inactive adults in Baltimore. However, the program has expanded to include a broader audience across the state, including elementary school children and private companies. Since 2005 the program has reached over 7,000 participants and resulted in a total of 1,700 pounds being lost and millions of steps being logged.

Center for Vaccine Development Receives \$5.6 Million Grant

Researchers from the Center for Vaccine Development (CVD) have received a \$5.6 million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to develop a faster and more precise molecular test to diagnose the causes of diarrheal disease in developing countries. The funding will enable the researchers to work on identifying new pathogens that cause these infections, which account for at least 18 percent of deaths in children under the age of

five worldwide. "A major obstacle in designing effective strategies to combat these diseases is the large number of pathogens that can make children sick," said James P. Nataro, MD, PhD, professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Microbiology & Immunology, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, and Medicine, and associate director of the CVD. Dr. Nataro is principal investigator on the grant. "The current technologies available in third-world countries for establishing the causes of diarrheal diseases are extremely cumbersome. In the US, we have technologies that offer promise for providing rapid and specific diagnoses in Africa

and elsewhere, and we hope to adapt those strategies for use in developing countries through this grant."

"It is standard practice in the US to send fecal samples to a medical laboratory and to receive a fast and accurate diagnosis of the pathogen making the person ill. A diagno-

sis requires a large number of tests that can be expensive and require lots of expertise and equipment," Dr. Nataro continued. "But in

sub-Saharan Africa those resources are not available, making it much more difficult to appropriately treat diarrheal diseases and understand the broader disease burden."

The study will use computer-assisted molecular technologies to develop a single test that will detect all of the important organisms involved in diarrheal diseases in developing countries. The researchers will test fecal samples obtained from sites in Bangladesh, Mali and Kenya through a coopera-

tive agreement with other researchers from the CVD. Most importantly, the samples will not need to be fresh so tests can be performed at laboratories a great distance from the children affected by the infections. Ultimately,

James Nataro MD PhD

fully-stocked laboratories will be established at regional centers to process fecal samples brought in from outlying areas and to facilitate global surveillance for emerging infectious diseases, such as cholera.

"Our goal is to provide a quantum leap in diagnostic technology for diarrheal diseases, so that for the first time, clinicians can quickly, comprehensively and with little onsite expertise ascertain the causes of these diseases in even the most remote of settings," said Dr. Nataro. "If we are successful, we foresee a day when a team of investigators can enter an area with their mobile technology and quickly and accurately determine the pathogenic source of an outbreak, which will undoubtedly lead to more timely treatment and better vaccines for patients."



Conduring ?

A Year-Long Birthday Party for America's Oldest Public Medical School

n announcing the School of Medicine's bicentennial plans in late 2006, Dean E. Albert Reece committed to a lineup of scholarly and social events like the school has never seen. He presented the year as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to showcase our rich history and unlimited potential.

The ensuing months and activities were remarkable, thanks to the involvement of scores of individuals and groups, including the Board of Visitors and Medical Alumni Association, faculty members, student organizations, the Staff Senate, and individuals in every clinical and research department.

In essence, 2007 was a time of participation and celebration. This wrap-up is merely a glance at the programs that brought the School of Medicine to the attention of numerous audiences in this region and the nation. At the closing ceremonies on November 29, Dean Reece pledged to continue the momentum created by this milestone year whose theme was "The Enduring Power of Leadership."

Jo Martin



(L-R) UMB President David Ramsay, Dean Emeritus Donald E. Wilson, Dean John Beale Davidge (portrayed by actor Alan Wade) and Dean E. Albert Reece cut the Davidge Hall anniversary cake at the November 29, 2006, bicentennial launch.

January



Advocacy Day

• Breakfast for

Assembly

met with

legislators

to the state of

Maryland.

Students and

faculty members

in Annapolis

History of the SOM

• The Medical Alumni Association publishes the school's history in the book The University of Maryland School of Medicine: The First Two Centuries, 1807-2007



(L-R) Speaker of the House Michael E. Busch, Ramsay, Dean Reece, Delegate Ruth Kirk, and Delegate Keith Haynes with the School of Medicine resolution on the floor of the

Delegate Melvin Stukes, UMB President David Maryland House of Delegates.

Medical students and faculty in Annapolis to speak to lawmakers about the importance of the School of Medicine





"Perspectives on Diabetes: The Researcher & the Patient"

- Nearly 1,000 people attended the first program in the free public service lecture series at the Hippodrome. Dean Reece was the host and Dr. Bob Arnot, former health correspondent for
- ABC and NBC, was the moderator for the series.
- Speakers included entertainer Patti LaBelle, who talked about living with diabetes; Alan Shuldiner, MD, and Stephen T. Bartlett, MD, from the School of Medicine; and James Shapiro, MD, PhD, from the University of Alberta.

 Sponsors of the "Enduring" Power of Leadership" Lecture Series: Charles Getz, MD, Memorial Lecture, Hippodrome Foundation,

WYPR 88.1 FM, and the University of Maryland Medical System



July

Mini-Med School for Kids

- Special six-part Mini-Med School for Kids
- Partnership with the Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club in West Baltimore
- Faculty and student speakers
- The last class was held at the School of Medicine where the kids had a tour of the Center for Mucosal Biology lab and Shock Trauma.



Department of Medicine, takes the pulse



Carnell Cooper, MD, associate professor, Department of Surgery answers questions during the kids' visit to shock Trauma

August

Project Medical Education

- Two sessions of Project Medical Education (PME) for elected officials at the national, state and local levels
- Based on Association of American Medical Colleges model
- Educates leaders on the realities of managing a biomedical teaching, research, patient care and service enterprise



Bruce Jarrell, MD, vice dean for Research and Academic Affairs, puts a white coat on Delegate Adrienne Jones during PME's White Coat Ceremony.



(L-R) Delegate Carolyn J. B. Howard and Paula Hollinger, a staff member from the Maryland Department of Health & Mental Hygiene, listen as Larry Anderson, PhD, professor, Department of Anatomy & Neurobiology, explains the importance of cadavers in educating our first-year medical students.

September

"Bicentennial Night at Camden Yards"

- Orioles vs. Boston Red Sox
- Dean Reece threw

ceremonial first pitch

- Special section for 900 representatives of the school
 - On-field recognition
 - Suite for donor and alumni guests
 - Medical students mingled with fans to educate them on the School of Medicine

"Perspectives on the Central Nervous System: The Scientists & the Patients"

- Final event in the Hippodrome lecture series
- Former US Attorney Janet Reno talked about living with Parkinson's disease; CBS anchor and weatherman Mark McEwen talked about living with stroke; Nancy Wexler, PhD, presented her

research on Huntington's disease; William Weiner, MD, chair, Department of Neurology, presented an overview of the central nervous system.

(L-R) Bob Arnot, MD, Mark McEwen, Dean Reece, Janet Reno, Nancy Wexler, PhD, and William Weiner, MD, pose for a photo.



ver of Leadership

March

Women's History Month

• Pamela Peeke, MD, a faculty member in the Department of Family & Community Medicine, author, television personality and advocate for women's health, spoke at a lunchtime seminar.

April

"The Enduring Power of Leadership"

• Second in the Hippodrome lecture series

• Speakers' remarks highlighted ways in which average people make above-average contributions to their communities

• Talks by Cal Ripken, Jr., on leadership, author Judith Stiehm, PhD, of Florida International University, who spoke about her book on female Nobel Peace prize winners, and "Dr. Bob" Arnot about his volunteer work in Sudan.



At the Maryland Science Center with an eager middle schooler



Kick-off breakfast

(L-R) Dean Reece,



Habitat for Humanity

Student Service Day

• Classes were canceled for the first time to allow more than 600 School of Medicine students to participate in a day of community service.

> Habitat for Humanity, health workshops for high school students, hands-on mentoring with 3,000 middle school students at the Maryland Science Center, painting and playground fix-up were among the projects.



A medical student teaches a middle schooler how to do a lab experiment

May

Bicentennial Commencement Celebrations

 Special reunion activities of the Medical Alumni Association

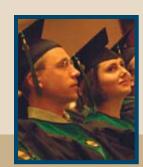
• Morning Convocation at Meyerhoff Symphony Hall with representatives from Penn, Columbia, Harvard and Dartmouth, the only US institutions with medical schools older than the University of Maryland's

(L-R) Dean Reece stands with the three School of Medicine deans who directly preceeded him: Donald E. Wilson, MD, MACP; John Murray Dennis, MD; and John H. Moxley, III, MD.

• Speaker was Abraham Verghese, MD, founding director of the Center for Medical Humanities and Ethics at the University of Texas Health Science Center-San Antonio

> • UMB Commencement exercises at First Mariner Arena in the afternoon

• Black-tie gala for 1,400 people at the Baltimore Convention Center, featuring actor and comedian Dennis Miller



Judith Hicks Stiehm, PhD, Cal Ripken, Jr., and Bob Arnot, MD, at the seminar on leadership.

October

Live International Broadcast of "A Prairie Home Companion" with Garrison Keillor



Garrison Keillor (center) mingles with guests after the live radio broadcast.

- 2,100 people in audience at the Hippodrome Theatre
- School of Medicine was sole sponsor
- Media partner was WYPR 88.1 FM
- Post-broadcast reception for cast members and School of Medicine guests

Guests enjoy the delectable

spread at the final holiday

November

Annual Meeting of the Association of American Medical Colleges in Washington, DC

- Bicentennial reception and panel display on the school's history
- Display now permanently installed in lobby of Health Sciences Facility I

Bicentennial Closing Ceremonies

- Final public event was a holiday party as founder and first dean John Beale Davidge would have served in 1807 at Westminster Hall
- Open invitation to the University of Maryland, Baltimore campus



• Special guests from Italy's University of Salerno, with which the School of Medicine has a collaborative relationship in celiac disease

> Displays by groups that participated in the bicentennial year

An ice sculpture of the bicentennial logo was proudly displayed at the final event.



Lighted panels showcase the vast and varied historic contributions that the School of Medicine has given to the field of medicine over

December

Donor Appreciation Events

- Dinner for major donors, followed by holiday concert with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra
- Sponsorship by the School of Medicine with special mention in the Meyerhoff Symphony Hall lobby and concert program book



Cheryl Armstrong, director of Development, and friend of the School of Medicine Richard Smith, enjoy the holiday dinner festivities before attending the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra concert.

Reminder

Bicentennial Boutique items continue to be available on www.som.bicentennial.umaryland.edu. The anniversary hotline, 6.2007, and e-mail, 2007@som.umaryland.edu, will be active through January 2008.





Photographer Helps Students See the Beauty in Being Different

What is beauty? That's a question photographer Rick Guidotti thought he knew the answer to as he spent his days snapping shots of supermodels for *Harper's Bazaar*. Then one day he spotted an albino girl at a bus stop. Struck by her unique beauty, he began researching albinism, a group of inherited conditions



Photographer Rick Guidotti shoots photos of a University of Maryland genetics patient prior to giving a lecture to first- and second-year medical students.

that result in a person having little or no pigment in their eyes, skin or hair. He then started taking photos of people around the world with the condition.

"As an artist, I saw beauty—but it wasn't the traditional standard of beauty," said Mr. Guidotti. Still, these pictures had such an impact—both on the subjects of the photos and on those who saw them—that Guidotti gave up fashion to devote himself full-time to Positive Exposure, a not-for-profit organization he founded that uses photography and video interviews to challenge the stigma associated with genetic disorders. By showcasing the experiences of people of all ages and cultural backgrounds who are living with

genetic, physical and mental health conditions, Guidotti hopes to change the world's perception of genetic disorders, because "once there's a shift in perception, it never shifts back," he explained.

Mimi Blitzer, PhD, professor, Department of Pediatrics, who had heard Guidotti speak at a seminar, arranged for him to give a presentation to first- and second-year medical students last October. "Traditional photographic images and medical stereotypes of people with genetic conditions are sadly negative," Mr. Guidotti said. "My lecture at the University of Maryland School of Medicine was meant to show medical students an alternative to the demoralizing images currently used in many medical text books to illustrate genetic conditions. The presentation of life-affirming photographs and compelling stories provides the opportunity for physicians-in-training to think beyond the point of diagnosis to a positive perspective on the full range of life experiences of people living with genetic conditions."

"First- and second-year medical students see patients in clinical settings as well as in pictures and representations in textbooks and online," said David Mallott, MD, associate dean for Medical Education. "While this is highly informative from a medical and scientific vantage point, it may miss the innate humanity of our patients, especially those who may look different or out of the ordinary. As a fashion photographer, Mr. Guidotti presents a variety of patients with obvious differences as real people. As part of our Introduction to Clinical Medicine course, our students focus on the doctor-patient relationship. This presentation was intended to heighten sensitivity and encourage the students to think about patients in a different light." 🕋

Dean's Gold Medals Bestowed Upon Colleagues at the University of Salerno School of Medicine

he University of Salerno School of Medicine (Scuola Medica Salernitana) was the first medical school in the Western world. Just as it was closing its doors in the early 1800s, America was opening its first public medical school, the University of Maryland School of Medicine.

Now Salerno is reopening the doors of its medical school and making plans to collaborate with the University of Maryland. The University of Salerno will offer the world's first master's degree in celiac disease, with faculty from our school



Dean Reece bestows the Dean's Gold Medal onto Professor Raimondo Pasquino, president of the University of Salerno.

teaching courses on celiac in Salerno's new master's degree program.

In recognition of the unique histories of both medical schools and new partnership, Dean E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA, awarded the Dean's Gold Medal to Professor Raimondo Pasquino, president of the University of Salerno, and Dr. Vincenzo DeLuca, president of the Scuola Medica Salernitana Foundation, in a ceremony held November 29 in historic Davidge Hall.

"The dean's medal goes to an individual who has provided outstanding service to the School of Medicine and whose contributions to research, patient care and community service have advanced the recognition and standing of the School of Medicine," explained Alessio Fasano, MD, professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Medicine and Physiology, and director of the Center for Celiac Research and the Mucosal Biology Research Center.

Salima Siler Marriott, DSW, Baltimore City's deputy mayor for Community and Human Development, also joined in the festivities. She read a proclamation from Baltimore City Mayor Sheila Dixon recognizing the School of Medicine's bicentennial. Deputy Mayor Marriott compared the University of Maryland School of Medicine to the Hope diamond in terms of its value to the city of Baltimore and the state of Maryland.

Later in the afternoon, Dr. Fasano presented a seminar on the history of celiac disease. Speakers included fourth-year medical student Katie Barrett, who has celiac disease, and 73-year-old Barbara Hudson, who was diagnosed with celiac at the University of Maryland in the 1930s.

The Italian visitors then participated in School of Medicine's closing bicentennial event in Westminster Hall, which included a selection of gluten-free foods for guests with celiac disease.



(L-R) Raffaele Ferraioli, MD, member of the board, *Scuola Medica Salernitana* Foundation; Professor Paola Capone, PhD, curator of the "Giardini della Minerva" (the *Scuola Medica Salernitana* botanical gardens that have been re-created where it is believed that the gardens were originally located); Alessio Fasano, MD; Professor Raimondo Pasquino, president, University of Salerno; Professor Luigi Reina, MD, dean of the School of Science Education, University of Salerno; and Giulio Corrivetti, MD, chairman of the *Scuola Medica Salernitana* Foundation, at the Dean's Gold Medal presentation in Davidge Hall.

SOMnews

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