

NEWS

A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN



September 11, 2001 – a day no American will ever forget. It has been nearly a month since the terrorist attacks on New York City and the Pentagon and since America lost her innocence. And in that month my faith in America and in the medical profession has only grown.

Firefighters, rescue workers, and police officers are trained to put their lives in jeopardy on behalf of others; it's part of the job. Physicians and health care workers are trained to save lives, but rarely have to put their own lives on the line to do so. However, scores of doctors, nurses and other health professionals did put their own lives in jeopardy in order to treat and save the World Trade Center victims. I don't know of a single person who was not riveted to the television during the aftermath of the Tuesday attack. We all saw scrubs-clad volunteers treating the injured at ground zero. We saw countless interviews with exhausted hospital personnel who refused to go home for a nap, a shower or a shave talk about their experiences in the immediate aftermath of the initial blasts and the buildings' collapse. We, as fellow doctors, felt their pain, their feelings of impotence, and yet their determination.

I know we all wish we had been there to help. Unfortunately, most volunteer medical professionals – including ours – were turned away when they arrived in New York. What made this tragedy even more unspeakably tragic was the scarcity of survivors: There just wasn't anything more for anyone to do.

I am extremely proud of our faculty and graduates who did respond and who were able to help:

- Michael Nelson, one of our former ER residents, is an attending physician at St. Vincent's Hospital in Manhattan, the closest hospital to the World Trade Center. He was the primary ER physician on duty at the time of the attack and treated the first and most seriously wounded victims.

- Darren Feldman, '01, a first year resident at St. Vincent's, was treating patients at the triage unit at ground zero when he ran into Tom Ashar, '01. Darren and Tom worked together on the front lines of this tragedy at the MASH unit at Chelsea Piers. In an e-mail Darren said, "Unfortunately we saw only rescue workers treated for smoke inhalation, asthma or dehydration. We saw NO victims."

- Four ER physicians drove to New York to provide medical assistance and relief to staff at St. Vincent's. When they arrived at Chelsea Piers they were told that there was simply nothing for them to do. Michael Rolnick, assistant professor of surgery and an expert in disaster management, said they called other hospitals to offer assistance, but there were simply no patients. They returned to Baltimore the same day.

In addition, Shock Trauma was asked by the Pentagon to be on stand-by to receive victims from that attack, but Washington hospitals were able to tend to the few survivors. There are countless other faculty and staff who offered their services and who helped in meaningful ways, by donating blood, supplies, or money, and they, too, are to be commended.

While I am deeply saddened by the terrible events of last month, my faith in our profession has been reaffirmed. I hope yours has as well. I have always known physicians to be altruistic in their commitment and dedication to their fellow human beings, and I am extremely proud to be counted among you.

Be good to each other. And may God bless America.

DONALD E. WILSON, MD, MACP
Vice President for Medical Affairs
Dean, School of Medicine

ASSISTANT DEAN HONORED WITH 2001 TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Gary D. Plotnick, MD, professor, Department of Medicine, and assistant dean for Student Affairs, will receive the Teacher of the Year Award at the 2001 Founders Day Gala on October 25th.

Dr. Plotnick is recognized as a master educator who is actively involved in all aspects of medical education, including serving as co-director of the sophomore pathophysiology and therapeutics course. This course is said to have dissolved departmental barriers among the traditional basic science departments and between basic science and clinical departments. Dr. Plotnick is also seen as a pioneer in echocardiology, and has written two textbooks, one of which is considered the "bible" of echocardiology.

Dr. Plotnick has won numerous teaching awards, including the prestigious Golden Apple Award for the past four years (the only faculty member ever to have won both the pre-clinical and clinical Golden Apple Awards). An outstanding lecturer, Dr. Plotnick combines content and clarity with humor and enthusiasm. He has served as mentor and advisor to countless medical students and residents, and has been a co-advisor to Alpha Omega Alpha, the medical school honor society, for over 20 years.

DR. PLOTNICK'S COLLEAGUES HAVE MANY WONDERFUL THINGS TO SAY ABOUT HIM:

"Simply put, he is a superb educator and the most collegial of faculty. He is the model for the clinician/educator at the University of Maryland."

"It would not be an understatement to say that Dr. Plotnick has positively influenced the lives of thousands of medical students over the years."

"Dr. Plotnick is widely recognized as one of the most effective and entertaining teachers on the campus."

Founders Week Activities

Mark your calendars for the Founders Week 2001 events!

Tuesday, October 23rd

11:30 AM - 1:15 PM

Staff Lunch at Westminster Hall

4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Student Happy Hour on Davidge Hall Lawn

Wednesday, October 24th

4:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Faculty Lecture & Reception at Davidge Hall

For more information about Founders Week activities, contact Lisa Kim at 6-8035 or lkim@oemail.umaryland.edu.

A Publication for the
Faculty & Staff of the

University of Maryland

School of Medicine

Mark your calendars for the 8th Annual Interdisciplinary Women's Health Conference:

"In the Mood - Emerging Concepts in Women's Sexuality" will be held on Friday, November, 9th from 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM at the Baltimore Marriott Inner Harbor. The fee is \$75 by October 19, \$95 after October 19, and \$50 for students. For more information and to register, call 6-2866 or go to whrg@epi.umaryland.edu.

Quick Studies

Stuart Amateau, a pre-doctoral fellow in the Department of Physiology, received a seven-year \$148,098 individual pre-doctoral fellowship for MD/PhD training from the National Institutes of Health National Institute of Mental Health to study "Steroid-Mediated Differentiation of the Pre-Natal POA."

Elizabeth Barnett, MD, associate professor, Department of Family Medicine, and clinical assistant professor, Department of Pediatrics, has been chosen by the United States Medical Licensing Examination board to serve on a committee to help develop the new exam.

Robert J. Bloch, PhD, professor, Department of Physiology, has been awarded a four-year \$1.4 million NIH National Institute of Neurological Disorders & Stroke grant to study "Macromolecules Involved in Synapse Formation." Dr. Bloch also received a \$30,000 one-year grant from the Facioscapulohumeral Society to study "Sarcolemmal Organization in FSHD and the MYD Mouse."

Julie Chen, a second-year medical student, received a \$3,000 grant from the American Academy of Neurology and a \$3,000 grant from the Epilepsy Foundation of America to study "Neurotrophin signaling via the trkB receptor and its relation to posttraumatic epilepsy."

Albert Fliss, PhD, a post-doctoral fellow, Department of Physiology, has been given a 2-1/2 year \$104,078 National Research Service Award from the NIH National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke to study "Characterization of the MUSK Signaling Pathway."

Raymond H. Flores, MD, associate professor, Department of Medicine, received the 2001 Clinician Scholar Educator Award on behalf of the American College of Rheumatology Research and Education Foundation. Dr. Flores also received a three-year \$150,000 grant to create an "Enhanced Rheumatology Curriculum for Internal Medicine Residents."

Charles D. Howell, MD, associate professor, Department of Medicine, has been awarded a five-year \$1.3 million grant from the NIH to study "Viral Resistance to Antiviral Therapies for Chronic Hepatitis C." Dr. Howell will also chair the NIH's Steering Committee and serve on the Executive Committee for the project.

Murray M. Kappelman, MD, professor, Departments of Pediatrics and Psychiatry, was honored with the 2001 Society for Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics Lectureship. Dr. Kappelman is being awarded this honor because his work in developmental-behavioral pediatrics is unsurpassed.

Asaf Keller, PhD, professor, Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology, will serve as chairperson of the NIH's Integrative, Functional and Cognitive Neuroscience (5) Study Section, Center for Scientific Review, through June 30, 2004.

Sara M. Larch, MS, FACMPE, chief operating officer, University Physicians, Inc., has been named the chair of the Board of the Medical Group Management Association (MGMA). During the MGMA's 75-year history, Ms. Larch is only the second woman to hold this position.

Colin F. MacKenzie, MD, professor and vice chairman, Department of Anesthesiology, and director, Charles "McC" Mathias, Jr., National Study Center for Trauma and Emergency Medical Systems, was recently elected to the Washington Academy of Sciences and given an award for "Innovative Research in Medical Emergency Situations" at its annual awards ceremony.

The **Maryland Psychiatric Research Center** recently received several Stanley Research Awards from the Stanley Foundation Research Programs (SFRP), the largest private provider of research on schizophrenia and bipolar disorder in the United States. Those who received grants in the Department of

Psychiatry include **Helene Adami, MSW**, instructor, **Gunvant Thaker, MD**, professor, **Brian Kirkpatrick, MD**, professor, and **Rosalinda Roberts, PhD**, professor. The SFRP established a new program in 2001 to sponsor additional clinical trials for schizophrenia and bipolar disorder. Out of the 10 Stanley Treatment Trials awarded in the U.S., those at the MPRC in the Department of Psychiatry received three of them. They include **Robert W. Buchanan, MD**, professor, **Robert R. Conley, MD**, associate professor, and **Adrienne C. Lahti, MD**, associate professor.

Mary Rodgers, PhD, professor and chair, Department of Physical Therapy, was recently voted president-elect of the International Society of Biomechanics (ISB). The election results were announced at the XVIII ISB Congress held in Zurich, Switzerland in July. Dr. Rodgers will serve two years as president-elect, two years as president and two years as past president.

Richard M. Sarles, MD, professor, Departments of Psychiatry and Pediatrics, was recently elected by the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry to the position of president-elect (2001-2003). He will serve as president from 2003 to 2005.

Elijah Saunders, MD, FACC, FACP, professor, Department of Medicine, and chief, Division of Hypertension, has been recognized by the International Society on Hypertension in Blacks (ISHIB) for his service as chairman of the board since 1992. The ISHIB's board of trustees also named Dr. Saunders to a lifetime position as a member of the board. Dr. Saunders is one of the three founders of the ISHIB.

Joanne M. Smith, DVM, research assistant, Department of Pathology, has been certified as a Diplomate of the American College of Laboratory Medicine. Certification as a specialist or "Diplomate" is achieved by meeting high standards of education and experience, and passing comprehensive examinations.

Rodney J. Taylor, MD, interim visiting assistant professor, Department of Surgery, received the 2001 Henry C. Welcome Fellowship Grant. He will receive a three-year \$20,000 grant in support of his research, publications and speaking engagements.

Donald E. Wilson, MD, MACP, dean and vice president for medical affairs, was honored at the National Medical Association's annual convention in Nashville in August with the Internist of the Year Special Recognition Award.

The new Faculty Assembly officers for the School of Medicine are:
Chair - **William L. Henrich, MD**, professor and chair, Department of Medicine; Vice Chair - **Robert J. McCarter, Jr., ScD**, associate professor, Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine; Secretary - **Jay A. Perman, MD**, professor and chair, Department of Pediatrics.

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SOMNews

UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND
School of Medicine



Campus Mail

Mark your calendars for the 9th Annual Maryland Schizophrenia Conference
on Tuesday, November 13th from 1:00-5:15 PM at Martin's West conference center. Registration fee: MD/PHD \$70; others \$50.
For more information and to register, go to www.mdschizconf.org or email: ttinnire@mprc.umaryland.edu