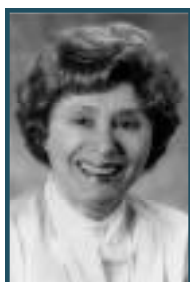


NIH Leader Receives Honorary Commencement Degree

THE HONORARY DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF HUMANE LETTERS WAS BESTOWED ON RUTH L. KIRSCHSTEIN, MD, DURING THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND BALTIMORE'S COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY ON MAY 24TH. Most recently,



Dr. Kirschstein served as the acting director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH); prior to that she was deputy director of the NIH from 1993 to 1999.

"Dr. Kirschstein's leadership and unwavering support over the last decade have helped us to dramatically expand our research capacity," says Donald E. Wilson, MD, MACP, vice president for Medical Affairs, University of Maryland, and dean of the School of Medicine. "I was especially pleased that Dr. Kirschstein was able to attend the groundbreaking for Health Sciences Facility II, which will further enhance our ability to compete for NIH funding."

From 1957 to 1972, Dr. Kirschstein performed research in experimental pathology at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). During that time, she helped develop and refine tests to assure the

safety of viral vaccines for such diseases as polio, measles, and rubella. Dr. Kirschstein later served as deputy associate commissioner for science at the FDA, and in 1974 was named director of the National Institute of General Medical Sciences. She held that position for 14 years.

Dr. Kirschstein has received many honors and awards, including the Presidential Meritorious Executive Rank Award, election to the Institute of Medicine, an honorary doctor of science degree from the Medical College of Ohio, selection by the Office of Personnel Management as one of 10 outstanding executives in 1989, the Dr. Nathan Davis Award from the American Medical Association, election as a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the Public Service Award from the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology in 1993.

In 2000, Dr. Kirschstein received the Albert B. Sabin Heroes of Science Award from the Americans for Medical Progress Education Foundation. She also received the AAMC Women in Medicine Program's "History Maker Award" and was recognized by the Anti-Defamation League, which bestowed her with its Women of Achievement Award. In 2002, Dr. Kirschstein received the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research Funding "Special Recognition Award," as well as the H. Richard Nesson, MD, Award from Harvard Medical School.

A 35-member team from the University of Maryland Hospital for Children, led by Marcelo Cardarelli, MD, (left) a cardiac surgeon, and Eric Strauch, MD, (right) a pediatric surgeon, both assistant professors of surgery at the School of Medicine, separated six-month-old conjoined twin girls on April 19, 2002. Loice and Christine Onziga were born on October 28, 2001, in the village of Koboko in Uganda, Africa. Surgeons, anesthesiologists, cardiologists, nurses, OR technicians, biomedical engineers, and even electricians worked for more than 12 hours to achieve the successful separation of the twins.



The surgery went as well as the medical team hoped it would and the girls are doing very well. The Onziga family will remain in Baltimore for several more months to allow the girls to recover and to ensure they are healthy enough to return to Uganda.

Loice and Christine are the second set of conjoined twins to be separated at the University of Maryland. The first separation was performed successfully in 1986.



Steve Schimpff, MD, CEO, University of Maryland Medical Center, Judith Vaitukaitis, director, NIH National Center for Research Resources, and Donald E. Wilson, MD, Dean, University of Maryland School of Medicine, cut the ribbon at the April 16th grand opening ceremony of the medical school's new General Clinical Research Center. The GCRC will provide state-of-the-art resources and expertise to help faculty members conduct safe, efficient and cost-effective clinical trials in a patient-friendly environment.

Second Annual Mini-Med School Set for September

The University of Maryland School of Medicine will host its 2nd annual Mini-Med School for the West Baltimore community this fall.

It will be held for five consecutive Wednesday evenings from 6:00 to 8:00 PM, beginning September 11th and ending October 9th. Classes will be held in the Freshman Lecture Hall on the first floor of the Bressler Research Building.



Topic/Speaker

Alzheimer's Disease

Neil Porter, MD, Assistant Professor, Neurology

Parkinson's Disease

Lisa Shulman, MD, Associate Professor, Neurology

Drug & Alcohol Abuse

Eric Weintraub, MD, Associate Professor, Psychiatry

Mental & Physical Abuse

Ellen McDaniel, MD, Clinical Associate Professor, Psychiatry

Infant Mortality

Hugh Mighty, MD, MBA, Associate Professor & Interim Chair, Obstetrics, Gynecology & Reproductive Sciences

Childhood Immunization

Margaret Rennels, MD, Professor, Pediatrics

Diseases of the Eye

Eve Higginbotham, MD, Professor & Chair, Ophthalmology

Congestive Heart Failure

Michael Fisher, MD, Professor, Medicine

AIDs/HIV

Lori Fantry, MD, MPH, Assistant Professor, Medicine

STDs

Ligia Peralta, MD, Associate Professor, Pediatrics

For more information, contact the Office of Public Affairs at 6-8518.

School of Medicine and School of Nursing Host International Clinical Education Symposium

The University of Maryland Schools of Medicine and Nursing received a four-year \$664,640 training contract from the U.S. Department of State to provide continuing medical education for physicians and nurses stationed in embassies around the globe. These medical personnel are responsible for the care of all U.S. embassy employees and their families.

The primary objective of the program is to provide annual updates in the areas of primary care, HIV and occupational health. In the wake of September 11th, this year's curriculum also included a major focus on chemical and bio-terrorism and emergency preparedness. The program was coordinated through the School of Medicine's Office of Graduate & Continuing Medical Education and the School of Nursing's Office of Continuing Education.

"We are very pleased to provide the State Department with this collaborative effort," said Nancy R. Lowitt, MD, EdM, FACP, the School of Medicine's associate dean for Graduate and Continuing Medical Education. "Both

schools have created a vital educational program for those who attended the sessions. The attendees gained knowledge that is necessary to provide primary and urgent care for embassy staff, members of the Peace Corps, military personnel, families, and their communities."

This year's course was held throughout the month of March with weekly three-day sessions. One hundred and seventy-five foreign service health care personnel attended, including 12 physicians who received continuing medical education credits.

"Both schools worked closely together in order to educate embassies on preparedness, as well as provide information on new technologies in medical care," said Stacy E. Smith, MD, assistant professor of diagnostic radiology at the School of Medicine. "This program has helped not only to bridge communication between embassies, but to provide a wider breadth of knowledge and understanding about international medical care for those attending the conference."

School of Medicine faculty who gave generously of their time and expertise include: Anthony Amoroso, MD; Sania Amr, MD; Robert Edelman, MD; Anthony Gaspari, MD; Joseph Inzinna, MD, fellow; Mark Lowitt, MD; Nancy R. Lowitt, MD, EdM, FACP; Melissa McDiarmid, MD, MPH; David Oldach, MD; Ligia Peralta, MD; Tracy Roth, RN, MSN; Stacy Smith, MD; Craig Thorne, MD, MPH; and Jason Allen Winslow, MD, MS.

Quick Studies

Maureen Black, PhD, professor, and Howard Dubowitz, MD, professor, Department of Pediatrics, and Raymond Starr, PhD, professor, Department of Psychology, UMBC, are recipients of a 2002-2003 University System of Maryland Regents' Faculty Award for Excellence in Inter-Institutional Collaboration. This award is the highest honor that the Regents bestows to recognize exemplary faculty achievement.

Sharon Bowser, MBA, formerly director of Management Information Systems, was named assistant dean for information services in January. She is now responsible for software development and operations management for the School of Medicine. Jennifer B. Litchman, MA, director of public affairs, has been named assistant dean for public affairs, effective July 1, with responsibility for communications, public relations, media relations, publications, community relations, and special events for the School of Medicine.

Kevin S. Ferentz, MD, associate professor, Departments of Family Medicine and Epidemiology & Preventive Medicine, and Howard McClamrock, MD, associate professor, Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology & Reproductive Sciences, are listed as "The Best Doctors for Families" in the May 2002 edition of Ladies' Home Journal. Dr. Ferentz is in the list of best family physicians and Dr. McClamrock is listed for best doctors of reproductive endocrinology.

Martin Flajnik, PhD, professor, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, was awarded a five-year \$1,670,625 grant from the NIH National Center for Research Resources, to study "Evolution of Adaptive Immunity."

Douglas O. Frost, PhD, professor, Department of Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics, received a three-year \$445,500 grant from National Institute on Drug Abuse for the study of "Effects of M-Amphetamine on Neural Circuit Development"

Averell Gnatt, PhD, assistant professor, Departments of Pathology and Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics, received a five-year \$1,376,723 grant from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences for the study of "Regulation of Transcription: Structure Function Basis"

Murray M. Kappelman, MD, professor, Department of Pediatrics, was recently awarded the 19th Annual Society for Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics Lectureship. This annual lifetime achievement award recognizes individuals' contributions to the specialty during their entire career.

Alan R. Shuldiner, MD, professor, Departments of Medicine and Physiology, received a \$485,000 Shared Instrumentation Grant from the National Institutes of Health to purchase a mass spectrometer for high throughput genetic analysis.

The Master's in Genetics Program received full accreditation for the next six years from the American Board of Genetic Counseling.

SOMNews is produced by the University of Maryland School of Medicine Office of Public Affairs.

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Jennifer L. McGinley & Larry Roberts, Contributors
Concept Foundry, Design

Submitting Information to SOMNews: Do you have news or information you would like to see in SOMNews? If so, please e-mail your submission to Jennifer Litchman, Director, Public Affairs, at jlitchman@som.umaryland.edu or fax it to 6-8520.

SOMNews

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE



Campus Mail

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: The School of Medicine will hold its first annual Student Clinician Ceremony for third-year medical students on Monday, July 1, 2002, at 8:00 AM in the MSTF Auditorium. This event is part of the medical school's heightened emphasis on professionalism; the ceremony will emphasize humanism as students learn to interact with patients in their third year of medical school. For more information, please call the Office of Student Affairs at 6-7476.