

SOMNEWS

A Publication for the
Faculty & Staff of the

University of Maryland

School of Medicine

Message From the Dean



AS YOU MAY HAVE READ RECENTLY IN THE *BALTIMORE SUN*, THE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE WILL EMBARK ON AN AMBITIOUS PLAN TO RECRUIT 100 NEW WORLD-CLASS FACULTY RESEARCHERS OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS. THIS ACCELERATED RECRUITMENT PLAN WILL TARGET OUTSTANDING INVESTIGATORS WHO CAN BRING SUBSTANTIAL NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH (NIH) FUNDING TO THE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE. IN ADDITION TO WELL-FUNDED SENIOR INVESTIGATORS, WE WILL WELCOME JUNIOR SCIENTISTS WITH A DEMONSTRATED ABILITY TO CONDUCT IMPORTANT RESEARCH AND COMPETE SUCCESSFULLY FOR GRANTS AND CONTRACTS.

As we approach our bicentennial, this recruitment initiative will help us achieve several goals simultaneously. First and foremost, it will improve our standing in national rankings as we accelerate the increase in our NIH funding. As a result, our ability to attract and retain top-flight biomedical researchers will improve. Attracting and retaining the “best-of-the-best” will keep the School of Medicine on the cutting edge of biomedical research and pave the way for breakthroughs in education, basic science, disease prevention, and drug treatment.

We are already well on our way to meeting that goal. Last month in *SOMNews*, we featured the School of Medicine’s recruitment of 23 scientists from the American Red Cross national research and development program. The team is comprised of 15 fully-funded senior faculty members who bring with them more than \$10 million in annual NIH funding. The group also includes eight junior faculty members, as well as post-doctoral fellows, graduate students, research assistants, lab workers, administrators, and support staff. These basic scientists will form the nucleus of the School of Medicine’s planned research center for the study of vascular and inflammatory diseases. The move, which became effective July 1, 2004, represents the largest single recruitment in the history of the School of Medicine.

There is no question that bringing 100 world-class scientists to the School of Medicine will require a significant investment of time and money. Funds to support the recruitment plan will come from several sources. In addition to the incremental grant and contract funds generated by the new faculty, “use it or lose it” seed money from my office will supplement a matching financial commitment at the department level. Department chairs will establish annual recruitment goals based on the scientific priorities identified in the School of Medicine strategic plan. These recruitment goals, including the financial resources, will be reviewed by the Research Affairs Advisory Committee and the Fiscal Affairs Advisory Committee, and approved by me.

As we move forward, we will attempt to recruit a balance of basic, translational, and clinical scientists, and give them the resources they need to perform consistently at the highest level. Clinicians recruited under the program will be expected to devote at least 75 percent of their time to research; basic scientists will devote even more time to research. In order to leverage our intellectual resources to the fullest, we will continue to encourage partnerships among our departments, programs, and organized research centers.

Philanthropy will play the major role in our effort to fund the recruitment initiative, which will be in full swing by the time the School of Medicine celebrates its bicentennial in 2007. When laboratory salaries, support staff and seed money are taken into account, the recruitment plan is expected to require an investment of nearly \$100 million over five years. However, it is important to note that the recruitment plan has been carefully developed to be supported by future philanthropy and not to come at the expense of current operations. That we should be able to attempt such a major effort is an example of the level of accountability for which our faculty and administrators have become known over the last five years. In the long run, attracting well-funded faculty will only make us stronger financially.

Yes, these are ambitious goals. But they are goals that we must achieve if we are to remain competitive in the 21st century. They are goals we will achieve by working together. By raising the bar for ourselves, we become stronger as an institution.

Donald E. Wilson, MD, MACP
Vice President for Medical Affairs, University of Maryland &
Dean, School of Medicine

Quick Studies

Michael S. Blake, a rising third-year medical student, was recently awarded a \$2,400 medical student grant from the Emergency Medicine Foundation to study "Medical Factors Contributing to Morbidity in Emergency Department Patients." The Emergency Medicine Foundation was formed to function as the education and research arm of the American College of Emergency Physicians and is the only national organization created for the purpose of providing funds for research and education exclusively for emergency medicine. Michael is one of a handful of students throughout the United States to receive this grant this year.

Kevin Scott Ferentz, MD, associate professor, Departments of Family Medicine and Epidemiology & Preventive Medicine, is the winner of the 2004 Nikitas J. Zervanos Outstanding Program Director Award in Family Medicine. Presented to one out of 475 program directors in the country each year, the award is viewed as highly prestigious in the field of family medicine. Dr. Ferentz accepted his award at a ceremony in Kansas City in June.

Marian P. LaMonte, MD, MSN, associate professor, Department of Neurology, published "The Role of Argatroban in the Clinical Management of Thrombotic and Cardiovascular Disorders" in the June 2003 issue of *Pathophysiology of Haemostasis and Thrombosis* (formerly *Haemostasis*). Additionally, Dr. LaMonte published "Stroke in Patients with Heparin-induced Thrombocytopenia and the Effect of Direct Thrombin Inhibition Therapy" in the April 2004 issue of *Critical Care Medicine*.

Vincent Njar, PhD, associate professor, Department of Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics, has been appointed a member of the Editorial Advisory Board of the journal *Drug Design Reviews-Online*. Published exclusively online, the journal emphasizes rapid publication of cutting-edge review articles written by eminent experts in all areas of rational drug design and discovery.

Pamela M. Peeke, MD, MPH, clinical assistant professor, Department of Family Medicine, has been appointed by Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., to the Maryland State Advisory Council on Physical Fitness.

S. Michael Plaut, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Psychiatry and assistant dean for Student Affairs, was selected by the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) as Chair Elect of the Northeast Group on Student Affairs (NEGSA). According to the AAMC, Dr. Plaut was chosen for this distinguished position because of his leadership skills and dedication to the work of the NEGSA.

Christopher V. Plowe, MD, MPH, associate professor, Departments of Medicine and Epidemiology & Preventive Medicine, was awarded a four-year \$2 million grant from the NIH entitled "Clinical Trial of Chloroquine Combinations in Malawi." The grant is a competitive renewal that was used to illustrate that ten years after Malawi stopped using the antimalarial drug chloroquine due to high rates of chloroquine-resistant malaria, the chloroquine resistance had disappeared. The new study will attempt to discover if a cheap and safe drug can be brought back after it has been previously withdrawn from use, but this time protecting it from reemergence of resistance by combining it with other drugs, as is done with HIV and tuberculosis.

Jian-Ying Wang, MD, PhD, professor, Departments of Surgery and Pathology, has accepted an invitation from the National Institutes of Health to serve as a member of the Bioengineering, Technology and Surgical Sciences Study Section, Center for Scientific Review, for the term beginning on July 1, 2004, and ending on June 30, 2005. Dr. Wang was chosen on the basis of his established competence and attainment in his scientific discipline as evidenced by the quality of research accomplishments, publications in scientific journals and other noteworthy scientific activities, achievements and honors.

ANNUAL CELIAC WALK & RUN



Led by Jack Gladstein, MD, associate dean for Student Affairs (center with sunglasses), 13 School of Medicine students participated in the Annual International Walk & Run for Celiac Disease on May 16th. Sponsored by the University of Maryland School of Medicine's Center for Celiac Research, "Making Tracks for Celiac" raised more than \$30,000 for celiac research. The 5K event in Baltimore was among 22 fundraising walk/runs held throughout the U.S. and four other countries during the month of May. People with celiac disease are unable to eat foods that contain gluten, which is found in wheat and other grains.

4TH ANNUAL MINI-MED SCHOOL CALENDAR

The University of Maryland School of Medicine will hold its 4th annual Mini-Med School this fall. Classes, which will be held in the Freshman Lecture Hall, will run for five consecutive Wednesday evenings from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

For more information about Mini-School and for registration information, check out our website at <http://medschool.umaryland.edu/minimed>. Or contact Heather Graham in the Office of Public Affairs at 6.1521 or at hgraham@som.umaryland.edu.

DATE	TOPIC & SPEAKER
Wednesday, 9/22	Welcome – Dr. Donald E. Wilson, Dean Vascular Disease – Dr. William Flinn Repairing, Restoring & Replacing Hearts – Dr. Bartley Griffith
Wednesday, 9/29	Eczema & Dermatitis – Dr. Anthony Gaspari Mental Health – Dr. Teodor Postolache
Wednesday, 10/6	How a New Cancer Drug is Developed – Dr. Martin Edelman Pain & Pain Management – Dr. Joel Kent
Wednesday, 10/13	Genetics – Dr. Mimi Blitzer Antibiotics & Fighting Infections – Dr. Richard Colgan
Wednesday, 10/20	Injury as a Public Health Problem – Drs. Tom Scalea and Carnell Cooper Graduation – Dr. Bruce Jarrell

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Concept Foundry, Design

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.

FUNfact

Did you know that Maryland was the first medical school to establish a teaching position for diseases of the eye and ear?

SOMNews



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

JULY 2004

Campus Mail

Mark your calendars: The 2004 National Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Organization Conference & Workshop will be held in Baltimore this year at the Marriott Waterfront Hotel from July 31st to August 4th. Sponsored by the University of Maryland School of Medicine, this year's conference is entitled "Staying the Course in a Sea of Change." To register, go to www.NAOconference.com.