



DEAN'S MESSAGE: What's On My Mind



What's on my mind this month is how dramatically we recovered this year from the devastation of sequestration in fiscal year 2013, but how much more we wish to accomplish before we close the books in 2015.

As my 2014 State of the School Address emphasized, we made significant progress in all our mission areas—education, research and clinical care—thanks to the incredible efforts, dedication and commitment of our entire School of Medicine community to the goals of **Vision 2020**. Some of our notable accomplishments in FY 2014 included:

- Total SOM research grants and contracts of \$400.2 million, up 8% over FY 2013
- SOM clinical revenue of \$278.7 million, up 8.4% over FY 2013
- SOM applications at record level (nearly 5,000)
- Philanthropy at 81% toward our campaign goal of \$500 million in FY 2015

Vision 2020 was intended to be a spring board, and a way to change our growth trajectory over the next six years. Based on the successes of our past, we developed this strategic vision to propel us into the future. We appointed champions to head resource advisory groups, composed of our senior faculty leaders: **William Regine, MD**, chair of the clinical resources advisory group; **Margaret McCarthy, PhD**, chair of the research resources advisory group; and **George Fantry, MD**, and **Dudley Strickland, PhD**, co-chairs of the education resources advisory group. All resource advisory groups have met and provided important strategic initiatives to achieve their respective goals. However, Vision 2020 is an iterative, active process. We didn't just set goals to simply achieve them, but to surpass them, and I am confident that we will outperform ourselves in FY 2015.

However, we are not "out of the woods" just yet. As the midterm elections proved, the tides are changing in both Washington, DC, and in our State legislature. Currently, the NIH and other science agencies are operating under a continuing resolution, set to expire in December. It's unclear where the funding for biomedical research will fall on the list of priorities for the new Congress. Many of us were buoyed by the launch of the "21st Century Cures Initiative" in the House of Representatives, and the "American Cures Act," which was co-sponsored in the Senate by Maryland's own **Barbara Mikulski**. This legislation would augment federal appropriations with a mandatory trust fund dedicated to steady growth. If passed, the American Cures Act would increase annual funding for federal agencies at a rate of GDP-indexed inflation, plus 5 percent.

My fellow dean at Johns Hopkins, **Paul Rothman, MD**, and I, in a singular effort, and separately with my academic medicine dean colleagues at the AAMC, co-authored opinion pieces to stimulate others to rally around initiatives aimed to preserve America's leadership in discovery-based medicine. Medical science is entering a powerful new era of discovery, with technology enabling huge advances in disciplines such as metabolomics, proteomics and epigenetics. Already we are taking a fresh look at how we operate, beginning with the training of young scientists, maximizing translational efforts and industry partnerships and promoting team science. **As our new government leaders take their places, we must call upon them to demonstrate a commitment to sustained, robust financial support that matches the unprecedented scientific opportunity at hand.**

I enthusiastically applaud the work of our faculty, staff, trainees and students in recovering from the losses of last year—we have much for which to be proud. However, we cannot simply rest on our laurels or become complacent. In this academic year, we must turn our attention to the charge of **Vision 2020** to take bold, selective, strategic and opportunistic actions, which will allow us to thrive in the year ahead.

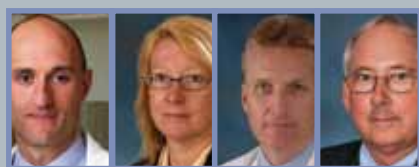
In the relentless pursuit of excellence, I am

Sincerely yours,

E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA
Vice President for Medical Affairs, University of Maryland
John Z. and Akiko K. Bowers Distinguished Professor and
Dean, University of Maryland School of Medicine

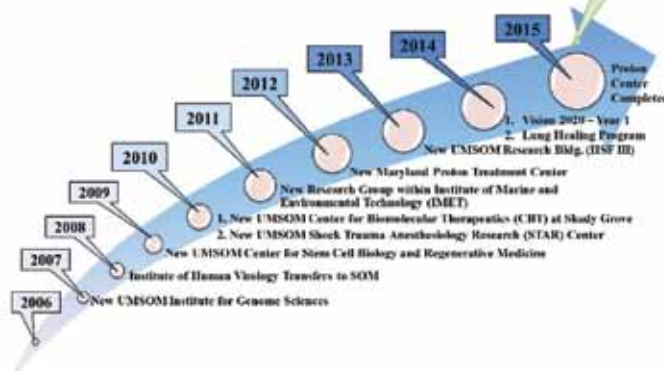


SOM applications
at record level

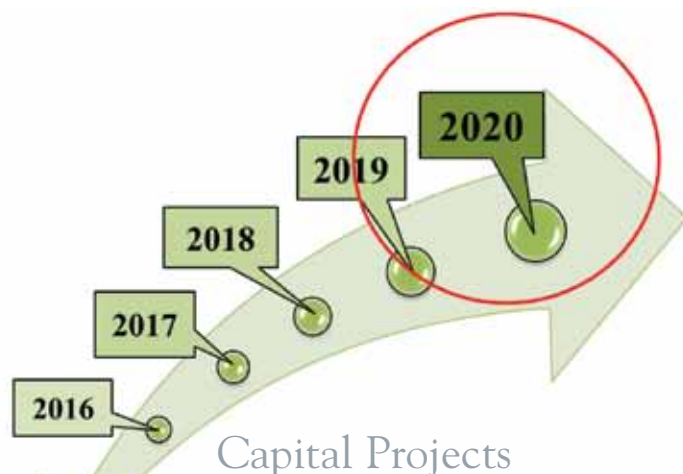


appointed
leaders of
resource advisory
groups

Growth of UM School of Medicine New Programs and...



Capital Projects



DEAN REECE PRESENTS THE

State of the School

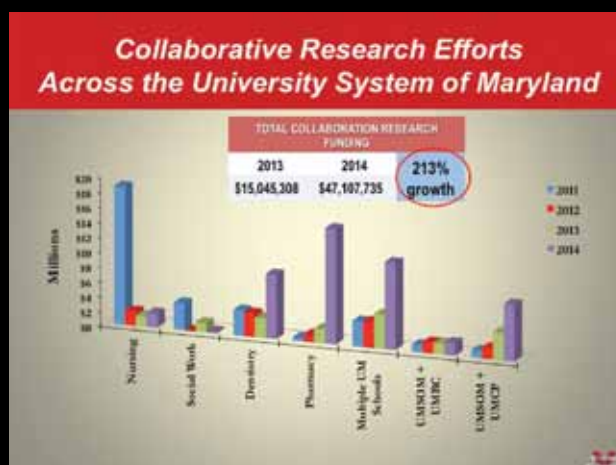


“From Vision to Venture”

In the 20th annual State of the School address, E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA, Vice President for Medical Affairs at the University of Maryland, and the John Z. and Akiko K. Bowers Distinguished Professor and Dean of the School of Medicine, emphasized the need to link basic scientific and biomedical research to practical applications that are useful to patients, society and industry. The theme of the presentation on October 22 was “From Vision to Venture.”

The school is making “tremendous progress toward our ambitious goals,” said Dean Reece. Speaking to a standing-room-only crowd, he proudly announced that grant funding had bounced back from decreases linked to sequestration. For FY 2014, the school was awarded \$400.2 million in grants, an eight percent increase from FY 2013. “I am very excited to tell you that we have rebounded,” he said, noting that University of Maryland School of Medicine (UM SOM) grant funding was ranked eighth in the country among all public medical schools.

Some of the address highlights:



Dr. Myron Levine

40 years since founding the Center for Vaccine Development

- Global reputation for creating, testing and implementing vaccines against cholera, typhoid fever, malaria, and other infectious diseases
- Recognized internationally as a collaborative and collegial investigator and for his extraordinary contributions

Myron Levine, MD, DTPH
The Simon and Bessie Greenman Distinguished Professor in Medicine
Departments of Epidemiology & Public Health, Microbiology & Immunology and Pediatrics
Director, Center for Vaccine Development

Address 2014

OCTOBER 22, 2014

Dr. Reece also spoke about the school's five focus areas: education, research, clinical care, community impact and global outreach.

He cited the impressive work of many faculty, including **Myron Levine, MD, DTPH**, the famed vaccine researcher who is currently working to test an Ebola vaccine. Dr. Levine, Director and Co-founder of the Center for Vaccine Development (CVD), which celebrated its 40th anniversary this year, is also a Professor in the Departments of Medicine, Pediatrics, Epidemiology & Public Health, and Microbiology & Immunology at the UM SOM, and currently has a \$25 million grant to study and test vaccines. The Ebola vaccine and CVD's participation in the trials was UM SOM's top media story of the year.

Dean Reece noted, as well, that it was the 30th anniversary of when **Robert Gallo, MD**, Director of the Institute of Human Virology and the Homer & Martha Gudelsky Distinguished Professor in the Department of Medicine, co-discovered HIV as the cause of AIDS. Soon after that discovery, Dr. Gallo and his colleagues developed a blood test for HIV, enabling healthcare workers to screen for the virus. Dr. Reece also mentioned **James S. Gammie, MD**, a Professor in the Department of Surgery, who has invented a device that may allow repair of heart valve defects without opening the chest or stopping the heart.

Dean Reece emphasized the school's continued focus on working on "Big Science" problems—those that require broad collaboration across disciplines. He specifically pointed out the School's Brain Science Research Consortium Unit, which seeks to understand complex issues relating to the brain, such as neuroinflammatory diseases.

Dean Reece also pointed to the vibrant UM SOM clinical practices, which grew more than five percent between 2008 and 2014. Last year, he noted, UM SOM physicians saw more than 1.2 million patients. Faculty will also soon be seeing patients in a new Executive Health Program,



For FY 2014, the school was awarded \$400.2 million in grants, an eight percent increase from FY 2013.


catering to leaders who want one-stop health care, and next year will open the Maryland Proton Treatment Center, which will offer innovative care for many kinds of cancer.

He referred back to the plan he announced at last year's address, **Vision 2020**, which encompasses both the University of Maryland School of Medicine and the University of Maryland Medical System. "I am delighted to report that this bold and strategic vision is coming steadily into focus," he said.

The success of the School of Medicine was also reflected in the support UM SOM received from generous donors during FY 2014. Philanthropy increased by four percent, and included eight endowed professorships, which are vital in helping the UM SOM retain talented faculty.

Looking ahead, Dean Reece was confident that discoveries at the UM SOM are going to significantly change the direction of scientific research and healthcare. He sees our faculty and staff growing their reputation for working collaboratively, in multi-disciplinary teams, at unprecedented levels. "We will be unquestionably the leader in clinical destination and magnet centers of excellence," he promised.

Dr. Robert Gallo



30 years since co-discovering HIV as cause of AIDS

- Developed the HIV blood test, allowing health care workers to screen for the AIDS virus
- First to identify a human retrovirus
- First to identify a new herpes virus in more than 25 years
- Only recipient of two Lasker Awards

Robert Gallo, MD
The Homer & Martha Gudelsky Distinguished Professor in Medicine Professor, Departments of Medicine and Microbiology & Immunology Director, Institute of Human Virology

First Year UMSOM Student Statistics

The Class of 2018

- 4,989 total applications for class of 157 students
- 72 colleges and universities are represented
- Ages range from 20 to 32 years
- 76% are Maryland residents; 24% are non-residents
- 9% are under-represented in medicine
- 54% are female, 46% are male
- Overall average GPA is 3.79
- Average MCAT score is 32

Above National Average

FY 13 National Ranking

1 st out of all 86 Public Medical Schools (Top 10%)			22 nd out of all 141 Public and Private Medical Schools (Top 15%)		
Rank	School	Grants & Contracts*	Rank	School	Grants & Contracts*
1.	U Washington	\$1,013,337,248	1.	Harvard	\$2,659,008,810
2.	UC San Francisco	\$939,498,364	4.	Pennsylvania-Perelman	\$791,196,548
3.	UCLA - Geffen	\$676,893,528	6.	Johns Hopkins	\$722,187,487
4.	UC San Diego	\$525,077,286	8.	Columbia	\$655,761,720
5.	Michigan	\$455,027,812	10.	Stanford	\$664,896,599
6.	Colorado	\$418,387,264	16.	Baylor	\$422,033,522
7.	North Carolina	\$399,797,002	17.	Vanderbilt	\$421,230,574
8.	MARYLAND	\$371,390,895	20.	Case Western Reserve	\$386,372,452
9.	UT Southwestern	\$311,176,345	22.	MARYLAND	\$371,390,895
10.	Oregon	\$110,346,318	23.	Northwestern-Feinberg	\$359,187,394

*Total grant & contract expenditures (not direct & in-direct)
Source: AAMC, IPeds, UMSOM Fall 13 data file, as of 8/22/2014. UMSOM Fall 13 data file last updated 8/22/2014.

The Class of 2018 Celebrates Their White Coat Ceremony

Medical Family Day was held on November 6, 2014 at the Hippodrome Theater. This special event, which was sponsored by the Whiting-Turner Contracting Company, gives family members of first-year students a glimpse into what medical school is really like for the students. It is capped off by a ceremony welcoming the students to the field of medicine by presenting them with their first white coat. "The White Coat Ceremony is a rite of passage. It symbolizes the beginning of your transition into the noble and privileged profession of medicine," said E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA, Vice President for Medical Affairs, University of Maryland, and the John Z. and Akiko K. Bowers Distinguished Professor and Dean, University of Maryland School of Medicine. "It is, however, so much more than a mere ritual for the privileged. For, to whom this great honor and privilege is given, your service, compassion and high ethical standards are expected in return."



Greg Lessans, President of the Class of 2015, spoke about what the white coat means to a student. "You're proud that you have made it this far, but excited and nervous about the unknown that lies ahead," he admitted. "It's impossible to summarize all the feelings that come with getting that coat with your name sewn into it for the first time." Among those feelings are pride, doubt and responsibility, all of which will overwhelm students as they learn how to make their way from student to doctor. "So welcome to the University of Maryland family." Greg added. "And it



truly is a family. We are happy to be able to celebrate this day with our new family members and welcome them to the proud tradition of medicine."

Kathryn Hart, MD, Assistant Professor, Department of Family & Community Medicine, was chosen to be the faculty speaker at the event. A 2008 alumna of the School of Medicine, her presentation included a photo from the day 10 years ago when she received her first white coat. She admitted she had not felt worthy of the coat yet, but her older brother, already a physician, told her not to worry. "That's why they call it the practice of medicine, he told me, because you will be practicing it for the rest of your career." Dr. Hart also admitted she was still humbled by how much information is out there and how much she still has to learn. "But that is what is exciting about medicine," she said.

The White Coat ceremony, which started at the School of Medicine in 1997, formally presents first-year students with their white coats, long the symbol of physicians and scientists, after they have completed their first course in medical school—Structure and Development (aka Anatomy). The coats are put on by School of Medicine faculty, to welcome their junior colleagues to the profession of medicine.

Once they received their coats, students recited an oath acknowledging their acceptance of the obligations of the medical profession. They



also added their signatures to the school's honor registry, a leather-bound book provided by the Medical Alumni Association that is signed by all our medical students in their first year, in which they pledge to maintain integrity throughout their years in medicine.



somnews

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND SCHOOL OF MEDICINE DECEMBER 2014 VOL.16 NO.4

SOMnews is produced by the University of Maryland School of Medicine, Office of Public Affairs
 ▲ E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA, Vice President for Medical Affairs, University of Maryland, and Dean, University of Maryland School of Medicine ▲ Chris Hardwick, Executive Editor ▲ Caelie Haines, Managing Editor
 ▲ Tom Jemski and Mark Teske, Head Shot Photos ▲ Brushwood Graphics Design Group, Design
 ▲ Submitting information to SOMnews: Please email your submission six weeks prior to the month you wish to see your submission included to Caelie Haines, Public Affairs Manager, at chaines@som.umaryland.edu.
 ▲ Printed using environmentally-responsible low VOC inks.