Maryland’s New Look

University of Maryland, Baltimore and University of Maryland Medical Center unveil New Unified Look

The University of Maryland (UM) and the University of Maryland Medical Center (UMMC) have unveiled a new visual identity, including logos and colors, that reflects the collaboration between the two institutions. The goal of the new look is to provide a simplified and consistent external public image to students, faculty, staff, alumni, patients, referring physicians, donors, and the community that is easy to recognize and visually unifying.

The new logo, the result of a yearlong effort, replaces independent logos across the University’s six professional schools and its various academic and research units and the visual identity of UMMC, an academic medical center that is the flagship of the 12-hospital University of Maryland Medical System. The Medical Center is a tax-exempt entity legally separate from the University. Many UM students and faculty learn, carry out research and provide clinical care in UMMC facilities.

The logo represents the pillars of Davidge Hall, the signature building on the UWU UMMC campus at Lombard and Greene streets and one of Baltimore’s most recognizable public landmarks. The Davidge icon anchors both the University and the Medical Center in the deep historical tradition of the campus. Next year will mark the 200th anniversary of when the state legislature re-chartered the College of Medicine of Maryland as the University of Maryland here in Baltimore and Davidge Hall was constructed.

The new visual identity will be seen in signage around campus, during graduation ceremonies and other events, and in publications, with the transition to be completed by January 1, 2012. More information about the new visual identity can be found at http://www.UMsomnews.com/communications/branding/

New Look

Unified Look

More information about the new visual identity can be found on the University’s website at http://www.umaryland.edu/communications/branding/

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The Gates Foundation worked closely with Dr. Gallo’s team in the design and review of this innovative approach to an HIV vaccine,” said Dr. Jose Esparza, MD, PhD, senior advisor on HIV Vaccines for the foundation’s Collaboration for AIDS Vaccine Discovery project. “We are proud to support Dr. Gallo’s continued, pioneering work in HIV and AIDS.”

The Gates Foundation’s assessment of the research for the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) of the Army’s Military HIV Research Program vaccine candidate was shared by the MHRP. “The U.S. Military HIV Research Program, part of the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research [WRAIR] and working with the Henry M. Jackson Foundation for the Advancement of Military Medicine, is very pleased to be part of this exciting research effort to develop a globally effective HIV vaccine,” said Col. Peter Weina, PhD, MD, FACP, deputy commander of WRAIR.

The novel prime-boost strategy using FLSC is distinguished by its potential ability to induce broad antibody responses to HIV-1. The antibodies induced by the experimental vaccine bind to common HIV regions that are exposed when the virus attaches to target cells, rather than to specific characteristics of the HIV envelope protein that may not be present in all virus strains. That strategy could potentially overcome limitations of previous vaccine candidates that responded to single strains or narrow ranges of HIV viruses.

“IFV’s unique and promising HIV/AIDS vaccine candidate is designed to bind to the virus at the moment of infection, when many of the different strains of HIV found around the world can be neutralized,” said Dr. Gallo. “We believe this mechanism is a major prerequisite for an effective HIV preventive vaccine.”

Dr. Gallo acknowledged and expressed appreciation to the Institute’s entire team, noting especially the original contributions of HV’s Tony DeVico, PhD, who is also a professor in the Department of Medicine, and principal investigator George Lewis, PhD, who is also a professor in the Department of Microbiology & Immunology, for their work on the development of FLSC. He also indicated that he was looking forward to advancing the next phases of research in conjunction with IFV Associate Director, Dr. Redfield, and his Clinical Care and Research Division at the Institute. Baltimore-based Professor Biosciences, a spinoff company from IFV, will be leading the preclinical development of the vaccine construct.

“This is an exceptional combination of research partners—IHV, Sanofi Pasteur, Professor Biosciences, and the Military HIV Research Program—and we are grateful for the extraordinary support from all of our funding partners, including the Gates Foundation, the U.S. Army, and NIH,” said Dr. Gallo. “This team is truly dedicated to eradicating HIV and AIDS, and we are excited by the potential for accomplishing that goal with the use of our novel prime-boost immunization strategy.”
Treatment for Triple-Negative Breast Cancer

Experimental drug may help reprogram tumor cells to respond to hormone therapy

A multicenter clinical trial led by a researcher at the University of Maryland Greenebaum Cancer Center will test whether a new drug combination therapy can improve the quality of life for women with triple-negative breast cancer.

Researchers hope to enroll a total of 41 patients at 20 sites, including the University of Maryland Greenebaum Cancer Center. The centers involved in the study are affiliated with the University of Chicago Phase II study research consortium and the National Cancer Institute’s Cancer Therapy Trials Network.

The treatment, a combination of the experimental drug entinostat and an aromatase inhibitor called anastrozole, is being developed by the pharmaceutical company Syndax Pharmaceuticals, Inc., and is being investigated in other clinical studies for the treatment of advanced estrogen receptor-positive breast cancer, advanced non-small-cell lung cancer, advanced colorectal cancer and Hodgkin’s lymphoma.

Triple-negative breast cancer patients in this clinical trial will take entinostat weekly and anastrozole once daily for two to four weeks while they are waiting to have surgery. Researchers will use blood tests and tissue analysis of tumors to evaluate the effectiveness of the combination therapy.

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New Tradition for Match Day at Maryland

A tradition at the School of Medicine’s annual Match Day ceremony has each matching student throw a monetary donation into a bag, which is then given to the student who is the last to receive his/her Match envelope. This reward is often used for an after-Match celebration. At this year’s ceremony, however, the traditional gift bag was replaced by a very special piggy bank.

Decorated with a Maryland flag theme, the pig was created by Class of 2011 president Christopher Lemon. During his four years at the School of Medicine, Christopher co-founded LinkMD, which is a very successful student/doctor networking program. He also co-founded the Community Outreach and Opportunities Program (CO-OP). Later Christopher was awarded an Arnold P. Gold Foundation Student Summer Service Fellowship to fund service with CO-OP. He served as president of the Internal Medicine Interest Group and was inducted into the Gold Humanism Honor Society as well. This year, Christopher was chosen to receive the Leonard Tow Humanism Award for demonstrating outstanding compassion in the delivery of care, respect for patients, their families and healthcare colleagues and demonstrating clinical excellence. Christopher matched successfully to the University of Maryland Medical Center, where he will do a residency in Pediatric Emergency Medicine.

Christopher spent hours stenciling and painting the pig in the weeks before Match Day as a special surprise for his classmates. The pig will now be used by each graduating class for their Match ceremony (the winner still gets all the money but has to give back the pig). During the year, Pig will be housed in the office of that year’s Match Day Staff Award winner. The Match Day Staff Award, a newly-created award by the Class of 2011, is presented to the staff member deemed most supportive by that year’s graduating class. Dawn Roberts, associate director of Student Affairs, was this year’s winner.