Cureton, as well as a staff of Board-certified physicians from the University of Maryland, publish guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of children with celiac disease. The North American Society of Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition is involved in celiac disease, including developing a diagnostic blood test and collaborating with other organizations.

Anca Safta, MD, is widely published on the topic of pediatric celiac disease, received a medical degree from the Carol Davil School of Medicine and Pharmacology in 1996, and has been assistant professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago. She has been a Distinguished Professor and Vice President for Medical Affairs at Stanford University Medical Center, a clinical professor at Stanford University School of Medicine, and an associate professor at the University of Maryland. She has been a member of the American Medical Association and the American College of Physicians.

The University of Maryland School of Medicine is fortunate to have leaders who refuse to back down when faced with difficult situations such as those that have been placed in our path. We remain undaunted in our journey forward and have made many important choices to continue advancing where many could be stymied.

The success of our students’ laboratory experience is exemplified by the fact that, last year, our graduate students published 167 publications and were first author on 60.

New Leadership for Clinical Celiac Program

Steven J. Czinn, MD, Professor and Chair, Department of Pediatrics, announced on February 26 that the University of Maryland Center for Celiac Research has appointed Anca Safta, MD, Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics, as Interim Director of the Center’s clinical celiac program.

The clinical program will also involve internationally recognized nutritionist Pam Cerraon, as well as a staff of board-certified physicians from the University of Maryland School of Medicine. "It is important for the School of Medicine to see patients with celiac and gluten-related allergies and gluten sensitivity,” said Dr. Czinn. "We are pleased that Dr. Safta and her team will be helping patients with this condition, as it continues as a growing national health issue.”

Dr. Safta, who is widely published on the topic of pediatric celiac disease, received her medical degree from the Carol Davil School of Medicine and Pharmacology in Bucharest, Romania. She is a graduate of Wake Forest University and received her postgraduate education and training at Stanford University Medical Center and the University of Illinois at Chicago. She has been an assistant professor at the University of Maryland School of Medicine since 2007.
Dr. Barney Stern
-appointed interim chair of the department of neurology

University of Maryland School of Medicine dean E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA, has appointed Barney J. Stern, MD, an accomplished expert in stroke and neurosarcoidosis with a distinguished career in clinical medicine and research, as the interim chair of the Department of Neurology.

"The Department of Neurology is a national leader in the study and treatment of neurodegenerative disorders, including stroke, and of movement disorders and other important neurological conditions," says Dean Reece, who is also vice president for medical affairs. "Dr. Stern is a distinguished and highly regarded physician-scientist who has conducted extensive research into stroke and the neurological complications of neurosarcoidosis. He is the principal investigator of the Maryland consortium of the National Institutes of Health-funded Neurological Emergency Treatment Trials Network. He has written extensively on stroke and neurosarcoidosis. Dr. Stern is also the founding editor-in-chief of The Neurologist, a review journal in its 18th year of publication. He is an author on 70 peer-reviewed publications, as well as several dozen review articles and book chapters.

In 1990, Dr. Stern earned his bachelor's degree in mathematics, magna cum laude, in chemistry from the City College of the City University of New York. He earned his medical degree in 1974 from the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry. Dr. Stern completed two years of internal medicine training at the Boston City Hospital and a neurology residency at Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester from 1976 to 1979. In 1979, he joined The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine as a clinical instructor. He served as an assistant professor of neurology at Johns Hopkins from 1980 to 1988, and associate professor from 1988 to 1994. In 1992, he joined the University of Maryland School of Medicine as a clinical professor in the department of psychiatry. He left the University of Maryland and Johns Hopkins in 1994 to join Emory University in Atlanta, Ga., as a professor of neurology. In 2004, he rejoined the University of Maryland as professor of neurology, adding his secondary appointment in emergency medicine in 2005.

"Dr. Stern is a world-class physician-scientist and an outstanding leader," says Dean Reece. "I am confident that he is the right choice to keep our department of neurology robust and flourishing during our national search for a new chair."
Reimagining the Graduate Student Experience:

Graduate programs in life sciences are under more pressure than ever to train young investigators in new and meaningful ways. Once they complete their degrees, graduates face stiff competition from veteran researchers for limited research funding and career opportunities in academia. The flat federal science budget and the dim prospects that this will improve anytime soon endangers the success of young biomedical researchers and threatens to wipe out a generation of new investigators. Graduate programs, therefore, must remain agile and forward-thinking in educating young scientists. The Graduate Program in Life Sciences (GPILS) at the University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMSO) is working continuously to meet the diverse needs of its students.

As a relatively new program—it was formally established in 2005—GPILS embraces innovative methodologies for preparing its students for science careers. Led by Dudley Strickland, PhD, Associate Dean for Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, Director of the SOM’s Center for Vascular and Inflammatory Diseases, and Professor in the Department of Surgery; Tom McHugh, Director and Academic Programs Administrator; and a number of highly dedicated faculty program directors and staff members, GPILS employs an integrated curricular approach that draws faculty expertise from across SOM departments, programs and centers; the Schools of Dentistry, Pharmacy and Nursing; and, most recently, the Institute of Marine and Environmental Technology. Several courses are also exploring ways to incorporate lectures from fields outside traditional academic science, such as law.

The interdisciplinary and innovative nature of the GPILS curriculum is best exemplified by the eight-credit core course “Mechanisms in Biomedical Sciences: From Genes to Disease,” required of all first-year students. This semester-long, 3-hours-a-day, 5-days-a-week course is taught by over 60 different faculty members. “The core course is like ‘boot camp’ for graduate students,” says Dr. Strickland. “Although it provides students with a deep and broad foundation of knowledge necessary to succeed in their future research endeavors, it also separates those who are truly serious about going into science careers from those who are not.”

Consistent with its commitment to providing students with the most relevant, contemporary curriculum and information dissemination methods, GPILS is in the second and final year of a pilot program using iPads to link students and their lectures. GPILS faculty and students also recently tested Response-Ware, an e-clicker polling tool, which allows faculty to insert into a presentation multiple-choice questions that students respond to via their iPads. Results are then instantly displayed.

“We use this type of technology, students assess their understanding of key concepts in a risk-free manner and faculty receive real-time feedback, which provides the class an opportunity to revisit certain topics if necessary,” says McHugh. “Though some schools of Medicine are a year or two ahead of us, we have received very enthusiastic support from lecturers and students on this new approach to teaching and learning.”

Currently, the greatest challenge to programs like GPILS is appropriately addressing the evolving training needs of biomedical graduate students. A 2012 advisory report from the Biomedical Research Workforce Working Group, convened by the National Institutes of Health, stated that, though the proportion of postdoctoral fellows moving into tenure-track faculty positions has declined from approximately 34 percent in 1993 to roughly 24 percent today, graduate training continues to focus on academic fields. The workgroup advised that graduate programs should offer a greater range of potential career options for students.

In response, GPILS leadership is infusing the program with new curricula, programs and support services to help position its students for success in today’s ever-changing career environment. Although most GPILS graduates will still pursue the traditional path of postdoctoral fellowship to an academic research career, plans are in place to incorporate training in scientific journalism, technology transfer and patent law, and training for various positions in government, biotechnology and the pharmaceutical industries into the program. “We are proud of the continued success of the program and of our graduate student-researchers who continue to make noteworthy contributions to the research enterprise,” says Dr. Strickland. “These new educational offerings will help strengthen our ability to better train our students to significantly impact the progress of biomedicine beyond working in academia.”
Historic Davidge Hall was the site of Match Day festivities on Friday, March 15, when the School of Medicine’s Class of 2013 discovered where they’ll pursue the next step in their medical careers. Held at the same time in medical schools around the country, Match Day is when fourth-year medical students learn the residency program into which they have been accepted. The National Resident Matching Program (NRMP) conducts the Match nationwide, using a computer algorithm that aligns the preferences of applicants with the preferences of residency programs in order to fill thousands of training positions available at U.S. teaching hospitals.

Match Day can be a torturous process for students, as names are called randomly from a chest full of envelopes, so the future doctors don’t know if they will be first or last to find out where they’re headed. The last student to get his/her envelope wins the contents of a special bank—this year a green cauldron “Pot of Gold”—into which each student has put a monetary donation before accepting his/her Match letters. This money is traditionally used for an after-Match celebration.

This year, University of Maryland School of Medicine students matched at 67 different hospitals in 27 states.

The Class of 2013 Seek Their Perfect Match

By Caelie Haines

New Organizational Structure and Leadership Changes in Trauma

[continued from page 3]

Dr. Diaz is classically trained in general surgery and is nationally recognized in surgical management of rib fractures,” said Dr. Scalea. “He is ideally suited for this role.”

In addition to their administrative responsibilities, each faculty member is conducting research in the areas of trauma, critical-care and acute-care surgery that strengthens the program’s capabilities and leadership position through the Shock, Trauma and Anesthesiology Research organized research center (STAR-ORC). The Center serves as a research umbrella for the Program in Trauma and the Department of Anesthesiology.

Dr. Scalea, who remains a prolific investigator, has published hundreds of papers and journal articles on brain injury, critical care, surgical outcomes, patient safety and injury prevention. Currently, Dr. Stein has several projects investigating traumatic brain and spinal cord injury. Dr. O’Connor has co-authored several studies with Dr. Scalea and is currently finishing a large study on thoracic infections after trauma. Dr. Diaz is a national and internationally renowned investigator, having published extensively on the open abdomen and abdominal wall reconstruction. He is also a recognized national leader in acute-care surgery and is currently developing a regional registry in acute-care surgery.