UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

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DEAN'S MESSAGE: What's On My Mind

What's on my mind this month is the State of the School Address, which I delivered on September 25th. The theme of this year's address was "Purposeful Actions, Promising Results: Relentlessly Advancing." Considering the myriad challenges that we as an academic medical institution faced this year—from sequestration and reduced funding for research from the National Institutes for Health, to the Maryland Health Services Cost Review Commission voting against increased rates and forcing hospitals to absorb the 2% cut in Medicare reimbursement—we nevertheless made considerable progress, continued with our plans to support major capital projects, and launched our new plan **Shared Vision 2020 for UM Medicine.**

It was against a tide of uncertainty that the School of Medicine persisted. We refused to be slowed down by outside forces that threatened to undermine our progress, and took bold, purposeful and strategic actions. We were nimble and wisely opportunistic, pursuing the most promising opportunities, while also taking some calculated risks. We advanced relentlessly, always with a goal toward maintaining our strong, competitive advantage.

This approach was most evident in the protracted but ultimately successful efforts to secure funding for a new School of Medicine research building, Health Sciences Facility III (HSF-III). With support from the Maryland General Assembly, we broke ground on this 10-floor, 430-square foot research building, which costs $305 million, and will serve as a magnet for attracting world-class researchers and will further strengthen the School of Medicine's biomedical research endeavors to investigate "Big Science" questions using a team approach.

There were many more accomplishments I highlighted in this year's State of the School, and I have included just a handful of them here:

- In January, a topping-out ceremony was held for the $200 million **Maryland Proton Treatment Center** being built here on campus, right next to the BioPark. One of only 12 such centers in the nation so far, the Proton Center will bring the Baltimore/Washington region the world's most-advanced technology in radiation treatment for cancer.
- **Six new Department Chairs** were appointed in the past year: **Christopher Harman, MD**, Chair of the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology & Reproductive Sciences; **Bennie Jeng, MD, MS**, Chair of the Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences; **Bankole Johnson, DSc, MD, MPhil**, Chair of the Department of Psychiatry; **Elias Melhem, MD**, Chair of the Department of Diagnostic Radiology & Nuclear Medicine; **Andrew Pollak, MD**, Chair of the Department of Orthopaedics; and **Scott Thompson, PhD**, Chair of the Department of Physiology.
- We celebrated four **new endowed professorships** for clinical faculty: **Aaron Rapoport, MD**, was named the inaugural Gary Jobson Professor in Medical Oncology; **Kevin Cullen, MD**, received the inaugural Marlene and Stewart Greenebaum Distinguished Professorship in Oncology; **John Olson, Jr, MD, PhD**, was named the newest Campbell and Jeanette Plugge Professor in Surgery; and **Alan Faden, MD**, was named the inaugural David S. Brown Professor in Trauma.
- Applications to the School of Medicine were up by 9% this year. For the first time, women comprise more than 60% of the class (63%).
- Students in the Graduate Program in Life Sciences (GPILS) were authors or co-authors on 174 publications, and 78% of our graduate students are supported by external grants.
- The School of Medicine was mentioned in *U.S. News and World Report* and *The Chronicle of Higher Education* regarding our new **Foundations of Research and Critical Thinking** course, which started this month.
- There was a large turnout for the Rally for Medical Research on April 8, 2013, one of many rallies held simultaneously across the country and on Capitol Hill to raise awareness of the consequences of cutting funding for basic science research.
- Although grants and contracts funding was down this year, the 12% loss here at the School of Medicine was below the 14% average across the top 20 public and private medical schools in the United States.
- **Two new Centers** were established at the School of Medicine: the **Center for Excellence on Problem Gambling**, which will train approximately 1,000 behavioral health professionals annually as part of a statewide, comprehensive and coordinated approach to combating gambling addiction in Maryland, and the **Center for Health-Related Informatics and Bioimaging (CHIB)**, a joint initiative between UMB and College Park that is supported by the MPower Maryland program, which will support advancements in comprehensive data mining and analysis to improve health outcomes.
- Currently underway are the **Center for Integration of Molecular Imagining and Therapeutics (CIMIT)**, which aims to improve the translation of basic science into clinical use through innovative and creative imaging technologies, and the **Critical Care Resuscitation Unit (CCRU)** at the R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center, which is using Shock Trauma's Trauma Resuscitation Unit model to triage incoming patients in need of acute care for a range of medical issues.
- Philanthropy was up 13.7%, and the School of Medicine has raised more than $350,000,000 toward its ambitious goal to raise half a billion by 2015 as part of its **"Transforming Medicine Beyond Imagination"** campaign. This money will go toward capital projects such as HSF-III, Endowed Chair and Professorship positions, scholarships and clinical initiatives.
- We continue to celebrate our strong partnership with the University of Maryland Medical System, and were pleased to announce the opening of two new faculty practice sites—an orthopaedics practice in Columbia, MD, and a new optical center here on campus.
- Our practice plan performance continues to be strong, and, since fiscal year 2007, we have seen a 46% increase in total clinical revenue.
- The School of Medicine received numerous mentions in the national media for its research and clinical endeavors, including CNN, NPR, ABC News and more.

It is my sincere hope that this year's State of the School Address has demonstrated to you the strategic and purposeful actions that we have taken and the positive initial results we have had, despite the strong headwinds that threatened to throw us off course. We will continue to be forward-thinking, maintaining our strong pace and trajectory. As the great American poet Ralph Waldo Emerson stated, ***"What lies behind us, and what lies before us, are tiny matters compared to what lies within us."*** Within the School of Medicine lies tenacity, dedication, a pioneering spirit, and strength. These are the attributes that have allowed us to face the tide of uncertainty and to advance confidently.

Thanking you most kindly for your dedication, hard work, and your ongoing and relentless pursuit of excellence every day.

Sincerely yours,

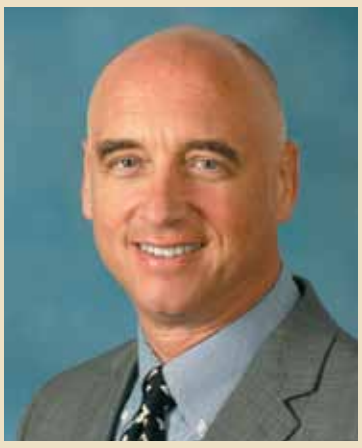
E. Albert Reece

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

Dean Reece and Robert Chrencik, President and CEO of UMMC, in the center, flanked by SOM's six newest department chairs.

► BY CAELIE HAINES

SCOTT THOMPSON, PHD, Appointed Chair of the Department of Physiology



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND School of Medicine Dean E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA, has appointed innovative neurophysiologist Scott Thompson, PhD, as Chair of the Department of Physiology. Dr. Thompson is a professor in the Departments of Physiology and Psychiatry. He has been Interim Chair of Physiology since 2011.

"Dr. Thompson is an excellent researcher and educator whose accomplishments in neuroscience research, as well as his commitment to education, are very much in keeping with the ethos of the School of Medicine," says Dean Reece, who is also Vice President for Medical Affairs at the University of Maryland and the John Z. and Akiko K. Bowers Distinguished Professor at the School of Medicine. "His excellent leadership while Interim Chair is greatly appreciated and sets the tone for what we can expect from him and the department in the future."

"The Dean has charged me with hiring the next generation of faculty for the Department of Physiology, and we're confident that the collaborative research environment we have here, and our excellent students and staff, will allow us to attract the best and brightest scientists out there," says Dr. Thompson.

The Department of Physiology's distinguished faculty integrate molecular, cellular, and systems biology to discover how life works. The department has especially strong traditions in cardiovascular-renal biology, neuroscience and muscle biology. Their research is helping to uncover the causes and mechanisms of human disease, including Alzheimer's, cancer, epilepsy, heart failure, hypertension, infertility, muscular dystrophy and stroke. "These are very exciting times for science," says Dr. Thompson. "There are fantastic experimental tools and disease models available to us now. Physiology faculty are making great advances using these techniques to try to understand the genesis of disease and develop new therapeutic strategies."

Dr. Thompson received a BS in Biological Sciences from Cornell University in 1979 and a PhD in Neuroscience from Stanford University in 1986. He then received a NATO Fellowship to study in Switzerland, where he worked first at the Biozentrum of the University of Basel (1986–1987) and then the Brain Research Institute of the University of Zurich (1987–1988). He completed his postdoctoral training in the Department of Neurology at Columbia University (1988–1990). In 1990, Dr. Thompson was recruited to become an assistant professor at the Brain Research Institute in Basel, Switzerland. In 1993, the University of Zurich awarded Dr. Thompson his Habilitation, a tradition dating back to the Middle Ages and the highest academic qualification a scholar can achieve in several European and Asian countries.

The department has especially strong traditions in cardiovascular-renal biology, neuroscience and muscle biology.

He has been a faculty member in the Department of Physiology since 1998 and also has a secondary appointment in the Department of Psychiatry.

Dr. Thompson has a distinguished record of national service at the National Institutes of Health as a member of the Board of Scientific Councilors for the National Institute of Alcoholism and Alcohol Abuse and the Synapse and Circuits study section. He has also served in leadership positions for the Society for Neuroscience as the Chair of the Program Committee and, currently, as the Chair Elect of the Public Education and Communication Committee. He is the Principal Investigator on almost $2.5 million in NIH grants and is also the Director of the Training Program in Integrative Membrane Biology.

Dr. Thompson's research focus is primarily on the biological basis of depression. "The science in my own lab has never been better. I am very excited about that," he says. "We study the genesis of depression. Using realistic animal models of depression, we have been able to formulate a new way of thinking about what's wrong in the depressed brain. This new way of looking at the problem has enabled us to propose a novel class of drugs as effective antidepressant therapies, and I'm very excited about the results we're getting with these compounds now."

ANDREW POLLAK, MD, Now Chair of the Department of Orthopaedics

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND School of Medicine Dean E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA, has appointed orthopaedic trauma surgeon Andrew N. Pollak, MD, as the new Chairman of the Department of Orthopaedics. Pollak will also serve as Chief of Orthopaedics at the University of Maryland Medical Center (UMMC). Dr. Pollak was previously Professor of Orthopaedics at the School of Medicine and Chief of Orthopaedics and Head of the Division of Orthopaedic Traumatology at the University of Maryland R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center. Dr. Pollak has been serving as Interim Chair of the department since October 2012. In addition, Dr. Pollak will also serve as System Chief of Orthopaedics for the University of Maryland Medical System (UMMS), coordinating orthopaedic efforts across its 12 member hospitals.

"Dr. Pollak is an outstanding physician-scientist who has demonstrated excellent leadership skills in his 19 years here at Maryland," says Dean Reece, who also is Vice President for Medical Affairs at the University of Maryland and the John Z. and Akiko K. Bowers Distinguished Professor at the University of Maryland School of Medicine. "He has been instrumental in developing our sports medicine programs for professional and college athletes and our trauma orthopaedics programs. I am confident that he will be an innovative and transformative leader and an excellent example to our faculty and students, guiding our department to new and important successes."

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As Chair, Dr. Pollak will continue to foster the growth of the department, strengthening its research, clinical and educational activities. "In this new role, I look forward to an opportunity to link the research and teaching missions of the School of Medicine with the vast clinical capabilities of the University of Maryland Medical System," says Dr. Pollak. "By developing integrated care delivery systems focused on achieving the greatest possible quality and value for our patients, I believe we can not only prepare the Medical System for the type of accountability in medical care that payers will be demanding in the future, but we can also use the same tools to improve our ability to conduct meaningful research in outcomes after treatment of common orthopaedic conditions."

University of Maryland Medical Center President and CEO Jeffrey A. Rivest calls Dr. Pollak "an outstanding hospital leader and collaborator who delivers exceptional care for his patients." Robert Chrencik, President and Chief Executive Officer of UMMS, added that "Orthopaedics is an important clinical service that is provided by physician partners across our healthcare network. We are very excited to have Dr. Pollak partnering with us to enrich the communities that we serve."

Dr. Pollak earned his bachelor's of science degree in medical education from Northwestern University in 1985 and his medical degree from Northwestern in 1987. He did his residency training at the University Hospital of Cleveland/Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine. Dr. Pollak also did a research fellowship in musculoskeletal biology at Case Western Reserve. In 1993, he finished his training as a resident in the Case Western Reserve University integrated orthopaedic surgery program. He followed that up with a fellowship in orthopaedic traumatology at the University of California Davis Medical Center in 1994.

Dr. Pollak joined the University of Maryland School of Medicine in 1994 as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Surgery. From 2000 to 2001, he served as an Assistant Professor in the division of Orthopaedic Surgery. In 2001, Dr. Pollak was promoted to Associate Professor in the Department of Orthopaedics. In 2006, he was named Head of the Division of Orthopaedic Trauma. In 2010, he was promoted to Professor of Orthopaedics and named Head of the Division of Orthopaedic Traumatology.

Dr. Pollak is an established and well-regarded physician-scientist who has received many awards and honors and has served on many boards and committees in his field. He currently serves as Treasurer of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS) and is a Past President of the Orthopaedic Trauma Association. He has served in the past as Chair of the Board of Specialty Societies for the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons. Dr. Pollak is a former Commissioner for the Maryland Health Care Commission; a Past President of the Maryland Orthopaedic Association; and former Chair of the AAOS Major Extremity Trauma Research Consortium (METRC), which was integral in producing evidence needed to establish treatment guidelines for the optimal care of wounded soldiers. His current responsibilities include Editor of the AAOS Orange Book Series; Medical Director of the Baltimore County Fire Department; and Special Deputy US Marshal. From 1996 to 2001 Dr. Pollak served as an Associate Team Physician for the Baltimore Ravens. In that capacity he was honored with a Super Bowl Ring after the Ravens won their first Super Bowl in 2001. Since 2002, he has served as a consulting orthopaedic surgeon to the Ravens.

► BY KAREN LANCASTER

Surgeon and Researcher Stephen Bartlett, MD Named Kidney Champion

The National Kidney Foundation of Maryland (NKF-MD) has named Dr. Stephen T. Bartlett one of its 2013 "Kidney Champions" for his accomplishments in the surgical and medical world, specifically relating to transplantation and kidney health.

"We are thrilled to honor these prestigious doctors as our 2013 Santé Kidney Champions, who have made such ground-breaking and historic contributions to the field of kidney disease research and organ transplantation," says Cassie Shafer, NKF-MD's president and CEO. "Their personal sacrifices will continue to have a lasting impact on the future of kidney health and the success of organ transplantation for generations."

Dr. Bartlett is the Peter Angelos Distinguished Professor of Surgery and Chairman of the Department of Surgery at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, Senior Vice President and Surgeon-in-Chief at the University of Maryland Medical System, and immediate past president of the International Pancreas and Islet Transplant Association (IPITA).

He grew the University of Maryland Medical Center's kidney and pancreas transplant program into one of the largest and most successful programs in the United States. Currently, UMMC's kidney transplant program is the second highest volume program in the country, and Dr. Bartlett continues to lead a surgery department that ranks among the highest in the country for NIH funding.

His 10-year basic science research effort helped result in the most extensive full-face transplant completed in the world to date. The operation, formally called a vascularized composite allograft (VCA), occurred March 19–20, 2012, at the R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center at the University of Maryland Medical Center, and was featured in a patient profile by Ann Curry during a June 28, 2013 NBC broadcast special.

Dr. Bartlett continues to spearhead basic science research to improve the outcomes of patients with VCAs and recently received additional funding from the Department of Defense to support these efforts.

Dr. Bartlett will be honored with the "Kidney Champion" award at NKF-MD's 2013 "Santé: A Culinary Odyssey Celebration" on Thursday, Nov. 21, from 6 to 10 p.m., at M&T Bank Stadium's North Club Level Lounge. With M&T Bank and The Charles T. Bauer Foundation as presenting sponsors, this premier food and beverage event will feature delicious creations from more than 35 top local restaurants, celebrity judges, live and silent auctions, live entertainment and more.

Proceeds from Santé will help NKF-MD continue to fund patient and community services, education programs, patient advocacy efforts, research, and patient financial assistance. For tickets, sponsorship or auction donation information, call 410.494.8545 or visit www.kidneymd.org.

He grew the University of Maryland Medical Center's kidney and pancreas transplant program into one of the largest and most successful programs in the United States.

► BY LINDA KESSELRING

Emergency Medicine Doctor is Both Teacher and Student While Working in Africa

Andrea Tenner, MD, MPH, Assistant Professor, Department of Emergency Medicine, reported for her first shift in the emergency department at Muhimbili National Hospital in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania, on the morning of March 29, 2013. Later that day, a 16-story building under construction in the city collapsed, killing 36 people and sending 18 people to the ED. While it was an intense beginning to her 15-week visit to the east African nation, it was also an impressive demonstration of the capabilities of Muhimbili's Emergency Medicine Department (the first in the country) and the residents who staff it. Dr. Tenner grabbed the opportunity to "jump in with both feet," learning more about the department's emergency response, as well as its day-to-day working, providing her with a real-world basis for the teaching she was there to do.

As a member of the Section of Global Emergency Health in the Department of Emergency Medicine here at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, Dr. Tenner has traveled to Africa many times to work with emergency medicine specialists in various countries. During her trip earlier this year, she was there for the purpose of supporting an educational consortium established to teach residents in classrooms and clinical settings, deepen their knowledge, and expand their skills. The consortium and the Emergency Medicine Department at Muhimbili were established through a partnership between the Government of Tanzania, the global healthcare company Abbott, and its foundation, the Abbott Fund.

During her time in Dar Es Salaam, Dr. Tenner presented more than 100 hours of classroom instruction and worked more than 500 hours in the ED supervising residents. These residents will be the first emergency medicine specialists in Tanzania. A consortium of American universities, including the University of Maryland, Baltimore, are working in conjunction with the Abbott Fund in supporting their education. As a member of the core faculty for the Muhimbili emergency medicine residency, Dr. Tenner helped launch the novel emergency medicine curriculum developed by the consortium, which is soon to be endorsed as the official curriculum of the African Federation for Emergency Medicine.

Six residents, mentored by Dr. Tenner, are now developing a quality improvement assessment of operations at Muhimbili National Hospital. This project, developed by the residency, involves studying American emergency response systems first-hand and assessing local needs and resources in Tanzania. Once they complete their assessment, the residents will analyze their data and compile a proposal for changes, which will be presented to administrators at Muhimbili National Hospital. One of the residents is making plans to come to the University of Maryland Medical Center for a six-week rotation. Two others, also being mentored by Dr. Tenner, are studying how the Muhimbili National Hospital disaster response has changed since the Emergency Medicine Department was established, including the response to the Good Friday building collapse mentioned above.

Dr. Tenner's tour of duty in Tanzania began with an urban mass casualty incident and ended with the visit of an international dignitary. President Barack Obama visited Tanzania in early July, a few days before Dr. Tenner was scheduled to leave. In advance of the President's arrival, Dr. Tenner supported the planning and coordination of medical services, standing ready with the local emergency medicine residents, who were the primary service providers.

International information exchanges like this not only encourage new thinking and development but also establish cross-cultural connections and partnerships that benefit both sides. Dr. Tenner's role in representing the University of Maryland in this exchange with Tanzania is no different. "I cannot tell you how inspiring it was to work with the Tanzanian EM residents—the pioneers of emergency medicine in that country," says Dr. Tenner. "Their enthusiasm and work ethic are impressive. They have to take on the roles of both student and administrator, tackling disaster planning and providing exceptional care for national and international dignitaries, as well as the day-to-day functioning of the ED. I am thrilled to be able to contribute to the development of such amazing leaders and to collaborate with the consortium dedicated to their success."

Ameer Abutaleb, MS-IV
Project: Clinical Experience in Tropical Infectious Diseases Affecting Egyptian Adults and Children
Location: Cairo, Egypt

Sarah Boudova, MD/PhD Student
Project: The Effects of Malaria in Pregnancy on Child Immunity in Blantyre, Malawi
Location: Blatyre, Malawi

Sam Du, MS-II
Project: The Relationship of Serum Cytokines and their Cellular Sources with Visceral Leishmaniasis Disease Progression
Location: Natal, Brazil

Genna Jerrard, MS-II
Project: Molecular Markers for Artemisinin-Resistant *Falciparum* Malaria
Location: Yangon, Myanmar

Prestigious Travel Fellowships

SOM Tops List of Winners of Prestigious Travel Fellowships in Tropical Medicine

On September 4, the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (ASTMH) announced the 2013 recipients of their Benjamin H. Kean Travel Fellowships in Tropical Medicine. Through a highly competitive process, 20 Fellows from 12 medical schools were selected. Four of the honorees were from the University of Maryland School of Medicine, more than any other medical school.

This unique Fellowship is the only medical-student award dedicated to nurturing a career path for physician-scientists in tropical medicine. It is awarded annually to full-time medical students at accredited medical schools in North America. Fellows receive airfare and up to $1,000 in living expenses for a clinical training or research project that takes place in an area where tropical diseases are endemic.

"The research projects of the Fellows expand their cultural and international understanding, and expand their scientific network, which will serve them for the rest of their professional life—ultimately leading them to a fulfilling career that improves the lives of the millions of individuals suffering needlessly from tropical disease," said ASTMH President David H. Walker, MD, from the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston.

The Fellowship is named in honor of Benjamin H. Kean, MD, (1912-1993), an internationally acclaimed tropical medicine expert. Dr. Kean is credited with discovering the causes of several diseases, including turista or travelers' diarrhea. A teacher, researcher and practitioner who was committed to the idea that early, hands-on experience in the developing world is the best way to stimulate a career in tropical medicine, Dr. Kean was instrumental in helping medical students obtain these experiences.

► BY NIASHIA JONES

Primary Care Track Holds Its First Summer Symposium

"**Serving the Underserved**" was the theme of the inaugural summer symposium presented by the Primary Care Track at the University of Maryland School of Medicine (SOM). The symposium was held on August 17 and 18 at the O'Callaghan hotel in Annapolis, MD.

Jay A. Perman, MD, President of the University of Maryland, Baltimore, was the keynote speaker. He addressed the 29 rising second-year medical students and faculty attendees on the topic of "Civility in Medicine."

SOM and outside faculty spoke to the students on the topics of nutrition, exercise, and motivational counseling. Workshops were held that allowed the students the opportunity to listen to heart sounds, check blood pressures and blood sugars, and get some instruction on how to conduct specific physical examination techniques. The students also shared reflections on the 80-hour summer rotations they had done with preceptors in underserved areas of the state.

The Primary Care Track (PCT) is a SOM collaborative effort taught by Richard Colgan, MD, Professor, Department of Family & Community Medicine; Linda Lewin, MD, Associate Professor, Department of Pediatrics; Nikita Southall, MD, Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine; and Mozella Williams, MD, Assistant Professor, Department of Family and Community Medicine.

PCT is funded by a five-year Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) grant created to expose interested medical students to primary care and care for the underserved in Maryland throughout their four years of medical school. Students work alongside a primary care physician on campus during their pre-clinical years, and in the summer between their first and second year they shadow a community faculty primary care physician in Western Maryland, on the Eastern Shore, in Southern Maryland or in Baltimore City.

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