



SOM news

DEAN'S MESSAGE

All good things must come to an end, eventually. The University of Maryland School of Medicine academic community has many farewells to share with several of our long-term colleagues. Farewells can be difficult, especially when it means we must part with something very good or highly valued, like the leadership of Dr. Anthony Lehman, Mr. William Tucker, Ms. Sharon Bowser, Mr. Rob Cook, and Dr. Bennie Jeng. In the same breath, we relish the opportunity to celebrate the legacies and service of each of these talented and exceptional individuals.



Anthony F. Lehman, MD, MSPH

Dr. Anthony Lehman retires after more than 30 years of serving as Senior Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs, Department Chair, and a distinguished faculty member in the Department of Psychiatry. He became one of my most valued advisors, and guided the School's clinical affairs to significant growth and accomplishment. He is internationally recognized for his mental health services research, focused on assessing the outcomes of patients with severe mental illnesses and developing treatments and strategies for improving their well-being.



William Tucker, MBA, CPA

For the past 22 years, **Mr. Bill Tucker**, Associate Dean for the UMSOM's Practice Plan Affairs and Chief Corporate Officer for the UM Faculty Physicians, Inc. (FPI), led FPI to its highest levels of operational performance and excellence in patient care, while successfully expanding outpatient practice locations across the State of Maryland. He steadily negotiated with payers to increase our commercial reimbursement by 40 percent as compared to Medicare, and he worked with the Maryland Department of Health and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to obtain an enhanced Medicaid program for SOM faculty. I am deeply grateful to Mr. Tucker for the lasting impact he has had in leading this enterprise. His close, collaborative work with each of the department chairs and directors to enhance growth and ensure consistency, in challenging times, leaves an enduring legacy.

Ms. Sharon Bowser, Associate Dean and Chief Information Officer, has devoted her life to leading the Office of Information Services for 25 years. She retires after serving the UMSOM for 29 years and serving UMB for even longer — 42 years! She facilitated the building of the first layered network on campus and the consolidation of 13 individual email systems across the UMSOM to one. She leaves behind a well-organized team of highly skilled colleagues.



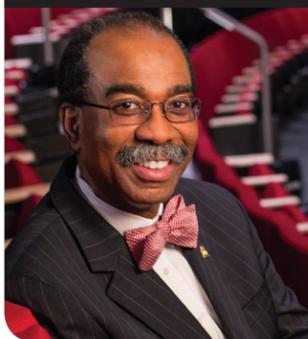
Sharon Bowser, MBA

Mr. Rob Cook retires after almost 27 years with the School of Medicine — more than 12 of which he served as Executive Director for Facilities and Operations. Mr. Cook worked tirelessly to acquire the funding for the Health Sciences Research Facility III. After five years, the funds were approved and it took another five years to design and construct the facility. Today, all space in the building is assigned.

SOMnews is your source for all news and information regarding the University of Maryland School of Medicine, including Clinical Care, Research, Education, Community Outreach, and its Culture Transformation Initiative.

- 2 UMSOM Leads the Way in Emerging Research and Discoveries
- 3 Student Awards Ceremony Recognizes Top UMSOM Medical Graduate
- 4 Saying Farewell to the Class of 2022
- 6 UMSOM Helps Launch New Center to Accelerate Advancement of Virtual Reality
- 7 UMSOM Investiture Ceremony for Dr. Peter Crino
- 8 Dr. Lisa Schocket and Dr. Osamah Saeedi, Named to Leadership Appointments in Department of Ophthalmology

What's on My Mind...



...is the planned transition of several excellent leaders at the School of Medicine and the honor we have in celebrating their legacies.

His vast institutional knowledge coupled with his architectural training and education, plus his oversight and careful guidance will be sorely missed.

Dr. Bennie Jeng, Professor and Chair of the Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences, has led the department for over nine years and transformed it into a full-service clinical service. The department now spans over 10 clinical practice sites across the state, which are recognized for providing high-quality eye care. Dr. Jeng also developed the residency training program into a destination program which produces outstanding comprehensive ophthalmologists.



Bennie Jeng, MD

I thank these leaders for their relentless pursuit of excellence and their dedicated service to our academic community. We know very well that excellent leadership, like theirs, never leaves. I take comfort in knowing that their influence and legacies will remain a palpable presence in our institution. I wish them all the best in their next endeavors.

As I prepare for my own transition from my role as Dean of the School of Medicine and Executive Vice President for Medical Affairs, I look forward to my next chapter. I will lead the UMSOM's new Center for Advanced Research Training and Innovation, or CARTI, which will significantly expand the longstanding and highly successful Research Career Development Program. CARTI will provide an entry point, as a major research and education training core for faculty and senior fellows of varying levels of research education. In essence, CARTI will become a centralized "hub" for training in research, scientific communication, and leadership skills.

We all look forward to welcoming our next Dean of Medicine, Dr. Mark Gladwin. I applaud Dr. Jarrell on his appointment, and feel confident that Dr. Gladwin will lead the UMSOM to the next level of excellence.

I hope that each of you are getting ready for your own fresh beginnings in the fall. We all have exciting opportunities ahead and I am confident that we will be equally successful with our future plans as we were in our previous undertakings. I hope that everyone is enjoying their summer so far and staying safe, healthy, and well.

In the relentless pursuit of excellence, I am
Sincerely Yours,

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

UMSOM LEADS THE WAY IN **Emerging**
Research and Discoveries

See below for the latest advances in research, science, medicine, and technology

NIH Awards Grant to Train Global Health Scientists in Low-and-Middle-Income Countries



Researchers at the University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMSOM) received a \$5.5 million award from the National Institute of Health's (NIH) Fogarty International Center to help foster the next generation of global health scientists. The award entitled, "Integrated Network of Scholars in Global Health Research Training (INSIGHT)"

will expand global health research across sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean by providing one-year mentored research training to U.S. and lower-middle income country scholars.

[Read the full story here](#)



University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMSOM)'s Institute of Human Virology (IHV) researchers received funding from the National Institutes of Health's National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) for \$2.7 million to study genetic changes in two genes from the HIV-1 virus that may make it resistant to antiretroviral

therapy. The study, named *INSPIRE*, will analyze genetic variation in types of HIV circulating in a handful of African countries that will help to better understand the implications of these mutations and will improve clinical management of patients.

[Read the full story here](#)

NIH Grant Awarded to Study HIV Drug-Resistant Genetic Mutations Across Africa

UMSOM Study Questions Prescribing Antibiotics to Treat Asymptomatic Infections



An estimated 70 percent of primary care physicians reported in a survey that they would still prescribe antibiotics to treat asymptomatic infections based solely on a positive urine specimen. This is despite long-held medical guidelines recommending

against this practice, according to a new study published in *JAMA Network Open*, which was led by University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMSOM) researchers.

[Read the full story here](#)

16TH ANNUAL STUDENT AWARDS CEREMONY RECOGNIZES TOP UMSOM MEDICAL GRADUATES

On May 18, 2022, the University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMSOM) held its 16th annual Student Awards Ceremony & Dinner at the Baltimore Marriott Inner Harbor at Camden Yards. Fourth-year medical students in the Class of 2022 were recognized for their superior academic performance and modeling extraordinary humanism, compassion, and integrity over their four-year tenure in medical school. The event also publicly recognized generous donors, many being alumni, faculty, and friends, whose financial support afforded students with the various scholarships.



Kerri Thom, MD, MS

Kerri Thom, MD, MS, Associate Dean for Student Affairs at UMSOM, served as master of ceremonies. *“I am glad we are able to reassemble in person to celebrate the accomplishments our students have made,”* she said as she welcomed distinguished guests, donors, faculty, students, and their families. *“Tonight, we pause to celebrate success in our academic community.”*

Awards were presented from nearly every School of Medicine department, with many of the awards named in honor of influential department founders, former chairs or faculty members, or in recognition of those who had made generous contributions to the departments. Donors were also recognized for their generous contributions to fund these awards.

“Those receiving honors tonight are truly the best of the best,” 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. *“They have worked diligently throughout medical school in achieving their academic accomplishments. I would also like to recognize our generous donors who have made these awards possible. We are extremely grateful.”*

Fourth-Year Medical Students Receive Recognition for Their Academic Accomplishments

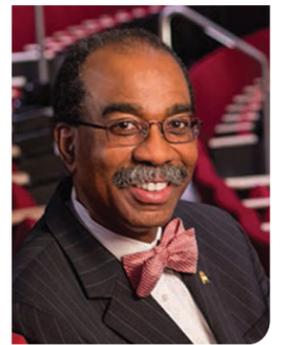
Among the evening’s awardees was **Kelly M. Bridgham, MD ’22**, who received The Balder Scholarship Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement. She thanked all who supported her during her medical school journey.

“I am thankful to everyone who has supported me over the past four years, including my family and the amazing faculty here at the School of Medicine,” she said. *“I am honored to be the recipient of this award, and I consider myself very fortunate to have*

training at this institution.” Dr. Bridgham will be completing a residency in Otolaryngology at Thomas Jefferson University.

Dean Reece, alongside **Donna L. Parker, MD, FACP**, Professor of Medicine and Senior Associate Dean for Undergraduate Medical Education, recognized three other students who received prestigious awards during the ceremony. **Gaia Cicerchia, MD ’22**, **Jennifer Drechsler, MD ’22**, and **Madison Hill, MD ’22** were all recognized as this year’s Academy of Educational Excellence Fellows, established by **Carolyn J. Pass, MD ’66** and **Richard M. Susel, MD ’66**. Dr. Cicerchia received the Carolyn J. Pass, MD ’66 and Richard M. Susel, MD ’66 Academy Student Teaching Fellows Award. Dr. Drechsler received the Richard M. Susel, MD ’66 Award for Outstanding Clinical Performance in Ophthalmology. Dr. Hill accepted the Carolyn J. Pass, MD ’66 Award for Outstanding Clinical Performance in Dermatology.

UMSOM’s Class of 2022 received their doctoral hoods in a special graduation ceremony at the Hippodrome Theatre on May 19. This year’s University-wide commencement event for the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) was also held on May 19 at the Chesapeake Employers Insurance Arena on the campus of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County.



E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA



Kelly Bridgham, MD '22



LEFT TO RIGHT:
Jennifer Drechsler, MD '22,
Carolyn J. Pass, MD '66,
Richard M. Susel, MD '66,
Bennie H. Jeng, MD



UMSOM Class of 2022
medical student awardees

SAYING FAREWELL TO THE UMSOM CLASS OF 2022

The University of Maryland School of Medicine Celebrates its 213th Graduation Ceremony in Person

After four years of hard work and perseverance, graduates of the Class of 2022 at the University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMSOM) gathered at the Hippodrome Theatre on May 19 to celebrate their official transition from medical students to physicians. This year's ceremony was especially significant for two reasons: It was the first grand scale in-person graduation celebration since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and the final commencement ceremony over which current UMSOM Dean **E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA** would preside. The graduating class of 148 physicians, who earned medical degrees, along with others who earned combined MD/Masters and MD/PhD degrees, received their doctoral hoods in front of hundreds of family members, friends, and faculty.

"We are delighted that we can be convening in one place, one time after a few years of hiatus to celebrate the extraordinary accomplishments of our students," said Dean Reece, who is also Executive Vice President for Medical Affairs, University of Maryland, Baltimore, and the John Z. and Akiko K. Bowers Distinguished Professor. In his direct address to the class, Dean Reece said, "Your

courage and bravery will be called upon in your endeavors of treating patients, conducting research, or doing both. Stay focused and achieve excellence in all that you do... You will achieve your goals and more by doing so."

In addition to remarks from Dean Reece and selected faculty and students, the ceremony also featured a keynote address to the Class of 2022 by **Vice Admiral Vivek H. Murthy, MD, MBA**, U.S. Surgeon General. As the Nation's Doctor, Dr. Murthy clear, consistent, and equitable guidance and resources to the public on

many critical public health issues and serves as a key advisor to President Biden's pandemic response operation.

In a captivating keynote address, Dr. Murthy emphasized the power of human connection. "Stand up for the value of every life. Our responsibility as doctors is to affirm the value of every life amid disparities," he said. "Put people first at work, at home, at all places in your life. I learned that my worth does not depend on my job title, but rather on my humanity." Dr. Murthy was also presented with a Dean's Distinguished Gold Medal for his extraordinary contributions to medicine and science and exemplary national leadership. 🏆

The Class of 2022 matched at 69 different healthcare facilities in 25 states, with 24 percent of the class staying in the state of Maryland for their residency training.

Reflections from UMSOM's Class of 2022



Malina Howard, MD

"When caring for patients, I have learned that it is important to advocate for your patients and to allow your patients to be advocates for themselves. You have to listen to them and treat each person the way you would want to have your own family treated."

Malina Howard, MD '22, Class President for the Class of 2022, will complete her residency in Family Medicine at the University of North Carolina Hospitals in Chapel Hill, NC.



Lauren Kasoff, MD

"I am looking forward to the breadth and diversity of patient interactions I will experience as I take the next step in becoming a family medicine resident to better serve the members of my community."

Lauren Kasoff, MD '22 will complete her residency in Family Medicine at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, PA.



Roger Lin, MD

"UMSOM has prepared me exceptionally well for the next step in my career. It has offered me all that I could ever ask for as far as academic challenge, faculty support, and friends that will last a lifetime."

Roger Lin, MD '22 will complete his residency in Internal Medicine at New York-Presbyterian/Columbia University Medical Center in New York City.



Michael Sullivan, MD

"The peers, professors, patients, attendings, residents, and staff created an incredible environment to pursue my medical training, even in the face of the constantly changing circumstances we faced during our time in school. Over the past four years, it has been incredible to be surrounded by empathetic, kind, devoted, and supportive individuals."

Michael Sullivan, MD '22 will complete his combined residency in Emergency Medicine and Internal Medicine at the University of Maryland Medical Center in Baltimore, MD.



Mark Waguespack, MD

"I have had a breadth of experiences in medical school that have given me a solid foundation to build on in the years to come. My problem-solving abilities have increased tremendously over the past four years. I look forward to the added responsibility that comes with being a resident physician, as it will improve my ability to care for patients and positively impact their lives."

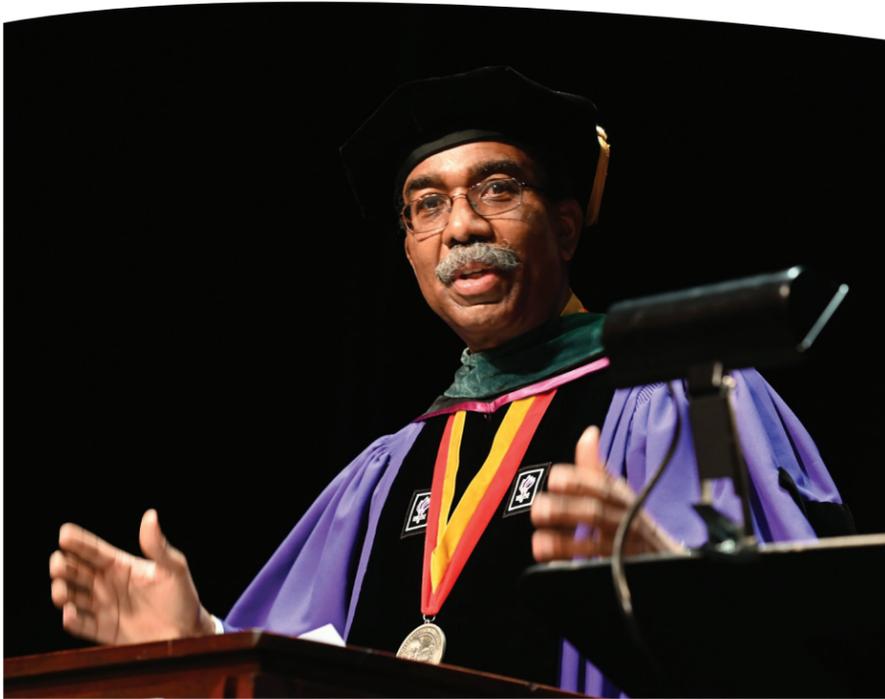
Mark Waguespack, MD '22 will complete his internship in Internal Medicine at MedStar Union Memorial Hospital in Baltimore, MD. He then will attend his residency in Anesthesiology at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, PA.



UMSOM Class of 2022 graduates attend commencement ceremony at the Hippodrome Theatre on May 19, 2022

Kelly Bridgham, MD '22





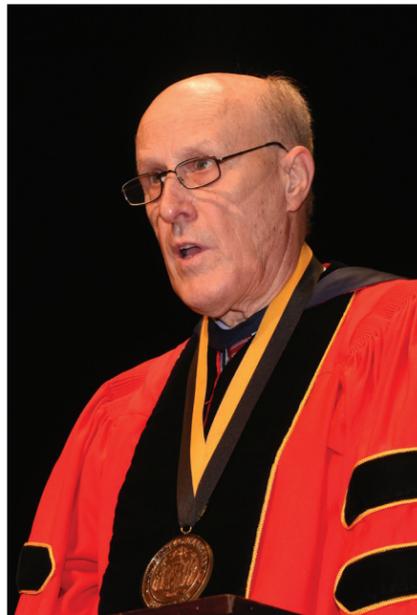
Dean E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA



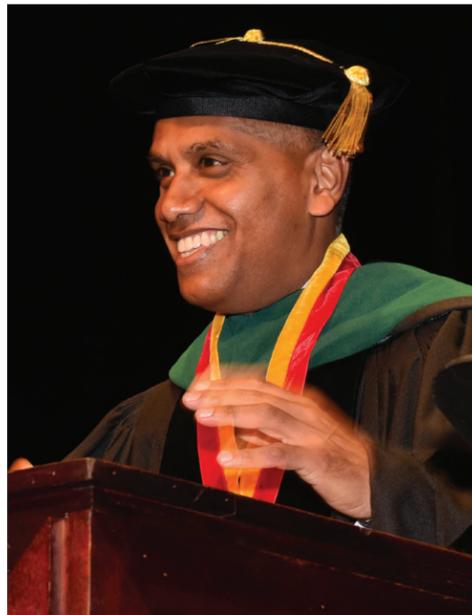
Vice Admiral Vivek H. Murthy, MD, MBA joins Dean Reece at the podium



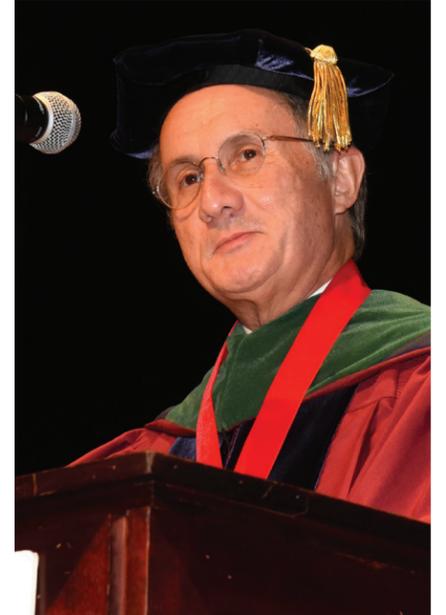
Sheri Slezak, MD carries the Davidge Mace



Bruce E. Jarrell, MD



Mohan Suntha, MD, MBA



Charles J. Lockwood, MD, MHCM



LEFT TO RIGHT:
Kristin P. Reavis, MD, Ashling Zhang, MD '22, and Dean E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA

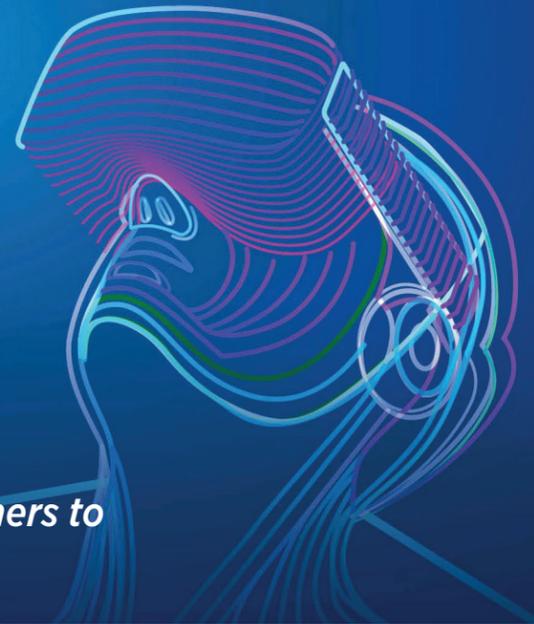


LEFT TO RIGHT:
Malina A. Howard, MD '22, Michael D. Sullivan, MD '22, Rebecca S. Cox, MD '22, and Megan S. Spurrell, MD '22

UMSOM TO ESTABLISH A NEW CENTER FOR EXTENDED REALITY

UMSOM Helps Launch New Center to Accelerate Advancement of Virtual Reality into Patient Care

National Science Foundation Provides \$4.75 Million to UMSOM and Others to Form a University, Industry, and Federal Government Collaboration



The University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMSOM) is the joint recipient of \$4.75 million in funding from the National Science Foundation to establish a new Center for Medical Innovations in Extended Reality. The Center, known as MIXR, will help accelerate the development of virtual reality, augmented reality, and other immersive media technologies — referred to as “extended reality” — for use in clinical trials and eventually widespread use in medical care.

UMSOM faculty are partnering with University of Maryland College Park (UMCP) computer scientists and engineers and University of Michigan physician-scientists to establish MIXR. They will also receive expertise and funding from Google, Microsoft,



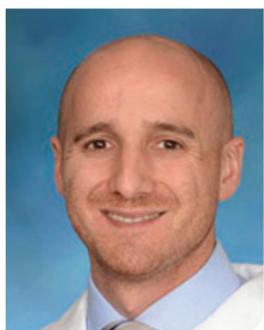
Sarah Murthi, MD

Meta (formerly known as Facebook), among others to develop, test, and certify extended reality technologies for use in medicine and health care.

“Immersive technologies have the potential to fundamentally change, improve and reduce the cost of medical training and maintaining clinical skills across all aspects of health care,” said Sarah Murthi, MD, Associate Professor of Surgery at UMSOM who is co-investigator on this project. She is an attending physician at the R Adams Cowley

Shock Trauma Center and Director of the Critical Care Ultrasound Program. **“They also have the huge potential to improve patient care, in everything from how pain is managed to how procedures are performed.”**

Dr. Murthi plans to continue working to understand how extended reality can fundamentally change medicine. She is focusing on using these tools in education and training and to help improve the patient experience in those who are critically ill. She is also working to implement innovative extended reality medical displays that could improve how bedside procedures are done. She helped develop and test an augmented reality prototype that overlays ultrasound, CT and video data directly on the patient.



Nicholas Morris, MD

Collaborators on these projects

include **Adam C. Puche, PhD**, Professor and Vice Chair Dept of Anatomy & Neurobiology at UMSOM, who is working on virtual reality technologies for surgical education and training, and **Nicholas Morris, MD**, Assistant Professor of Neurology at UMSOM, who is investigating the use of virtual reality programs for pain management in critically ill patients. **Luana Colloca, MD, PhD, MS**, MPower Distinguished Professor and TL1 Program Director from the School of Nursing at UMB,

is also a collaborator and the Principal Investigator of a series of MPower the State and National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health (NCCIH) funded studies. These studies explore the neurophysiological mechanisms of virtual reality for pain modulation directly in pain-free participants and chronic pain patients who have temporomandibular disorders.



Luana Colloca, MD, PhD, MS

The initial work started in the Maryland Blended Reality Center (MBRC) which Dr. Murthi launched in 2017 with **Amitabh Varshney, PhD**, Professor and Dean of the College of Computer, Mathematical, and Natural Sciences at UMCP. Funding for this initial effort came from **MPowering the State**, the strategic partnership between UMCP and the University of Maryland, Baltimore. Dr. Varshney serves as the lead-site principal investigator on the MIXR project.

“The synergy in MIXR will be contagious,”

Dr. Varshney said. **“Our industry partners will push forward new ideas and novel technologies. The scientists and physicians will help refine and test those ideas. And we both will work with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to bring these technologies from the lab to the proper health care setting where they can have an exponential impact.”**

Dr. Varshney and his colleagues at UMCP will soon unveil a “HoloCamera” studio, where more than 300 immersive cameras are fused together, creating a unique 3-D visualization technology. The aim is to create a holographic type of image to assist in the training of health care practitioners conducting intricate medical procedures.

In 2018, Murthi and Varshney co-authored an op-ed in the **Harvard Business Review** that detailed how augmented reality could improve patient care and lower costs in hospital settings. They also teamed up with the Maryland Institute College of Art to test a **virtual reality platform** that can help patients deal with physical and emotional trauma through immersion in another world with a focus on quadriplegic patients who are hospitalized with acute spinal cord injury.

The award is part of NSF’s Industry-University Cooperative Research Centers (IUCRC) program, designed to jumpstart breakthrough research by enabling close and sustained engagement between industry innovators, world-class academic teams and government agencies.

In addition to Google, Microsoft and Meta, other technology companies involved in MIXR are Sony, Magic Leap, Health2047, GigXR, Brainlab and apoQlar.

Another key partner in the MIXR initiative will be regulatory experts at the FDA, who will provide input and review of the new technologies to ensure that they are safe and effective for patient use.

“We are so grateful to NSF for their support of this important collaboration. Together with our colleagues in academia, industry and government, we can advance state of the art medical technologies and provide faster benefits to patients,” said Dean **E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA**, Executive Vice President for Medical Affairs, UM Baltimore, and the John Z. and Akiko K. Bowers Distinguished Professor and Dean, University of Maryland School of Medicine. 



Amitabh Varshney, PhD



UMSOM INVESTITURE CEREMONY FOR **DR. PETER CRINO**

Celebrating a Donor's Philanthropic Roots While Recognizing a Visionary Leader in Neurology

Tcademic colleagues, friends, and family recently gathered at the University of Maryland, Baltimore's Westminster Hall in to celebrate a visionary leader in the field of neurology—and to recognize the generosity of longtime University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMSOM) benefactors **Richard L. Taylor, MD '75** and his wife, Kathryn A. Taylor.

The occasion was the Investiture Ceremony for **Peter B. Crino, MD, PhD**, Professor and Chair of UMSOM's Department of Neurology, awarding him the inaugural **Dr. Richard and Kathryn Taylor Endowed Professorship in Neurology** at UMSOM. Funded by the Taylors and a matching gift from the Maryland E-Innovation Initiative Fund, the endowed professorship will support Dr. Crino's research, which focuses on treating patients with developmental brain disorders.

The ceremony began with a special musical performance by one of Dr. Crino's patients, **Mr. Evan Bertrand**. Despite Mr. Bertrand's health challenges, he has been able to share his love of music with others and considers himself fortunate to be under the care of Dr. Crino.

Anthony F. Lehman, MD, MSPH, former Senior Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs, Department Chair, who served as master of ceremonies, offered a warm greeting to the virtual audience. Following his remarks, UMSOM Dean **E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA**, recognized the Taylors for their generosity and deep commitment to UMSOM over the years.

"On behalf of the entire School of Medicine, I would like to thank Dr. Richard and Kathryn Taylor for their generous contribution, which has established this endowed professorship," said Dean Reece. *"Dr. Taylor has been a dedicated alumnus over the years. He even served on the search committee that helped to select and recruit Dr. Crino."*

For Dr. Taylor, the professorship is the latest in a series of charitable gifts he has made to UMSOM over the years, including endowments for the Taylor Lectureship in Neurology and Psychiatry, the Drs. Ronald and Richard Taylor Medical Alumni Association President, the Bruce E. Jarrell, M.D. Presidential Inauguration Fund, Leadership Hall, and the School's renovated freshman lecture room area, now called Taylor Lecture Hall. He continues to be consistently involved at the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB), serving as an Adjunct Professor of Neurology, an active participant in the Medical Alumni Association, having served as its 125th president, and a longtime member of the Dean's Board of Visitors and the UMB Foundation Board. Dr. Taylor graduated from UMSOM in 1975 and completed his neurology residency as Chief Resident in the Department of Neurology in 1978.

"Kathy and I are excited and inspired by this momentous occasion," Dr. Taylor remarked while standing at the podium alongside his wife. *"Our religious faith has taught us that the highest form of charity is to help others help themselves. What better way is there to achieve that goal than to support*

a leading institution such as UMSOM that teaches and prepares subsequent generations of medical professionals?"

Dr. Taylor also credited his father and grandfather for instilling a spirit of philanthropy in him as well as his uncle, **Dr. Irving Taylor '43**, who was the medical patriarch of their family.

Other speakers at the ceremony included two of Dr. Crino's colleagues, who spoke about his achievements as a highly esteemed leader in the field and described him as the model example of a physician-scientist.

"Pete is the exemplary teacher, research, leader, and clinician. To be an inclusive leader, you must see past society's biases, and sometimes your own, to see the qualities of others and make them shine," said **Camilo A. Gutierrez, MD**, Associate Professor of Neurology, Neurology Vice Chair for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, and Program Director for the Epilepsy Fellowship at UMSOM. *"He has this incredible ability to see your talents and then shares them with the entire world. He is not just a mentor; he is a true sponsor."*

John R. Pollard, MD, Adjunct Associate Professor, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, Director, ChristianaCare Epilepsy Center, emphasized Dr. Crino's unique ability to think outside of the box to solve difficult problems.

"I knew his ideas were going to change the field. I knew people's lives were going to improve because of his work," he said. *"Pete's creative spark is his ability to see the most important, central problem."*

After the presentation of his Investiture medal by Dean Reece, Dr. Crino expressed his gratitude for the endowed professorship, while highlighting the true focus of the occasion.

"This event today is more about celebrating the gift of the Taylor family, rather than about the individual receiving this award," he said. Shifting his focus to his patients, he said, *"I want to thank my patients, past and present, for trusting me with their care and for sharing their lives with me. It has been an incredibly rich experience, and I am humbled every day by what I get to do."*

Over the last 22 years, Dr. Crino's laboratory has maintained continuous funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for its research focused on epilepsy, intellectual disability, and autism, through which he has received four grants totaling \$4.1 million. He has collaborated on identifying several new genes associated with neurodevelopmental disorders, pioneered single cell mRNA and DNA sequencing analysis in resected human tissues, and used mouse models to plumb the effects of mTOR regulatory genes on neuronal and cerebral cortical development. Dr. Crino also has coauthored over 170 peer-reviewed manuscripts, chapters, and reviews, and has been invited to lecture around the world. 



Dr. Richard Taylor and his wife, Mrs. Kathryn Taylor



LEFT TO RIGHT:
Anthony F. Lehman, MD, MSPH,
Peter B. Crino, MD, PhD,
Dean E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA



LEFT TO RIGHT:
Anthony F. Lehman, MD, MSPH,
Peter B. Crino, MD, PhD,
Dean E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA

Two UMSOM Faculty-Scientists, Dr. Lisa Schocket and Dr. Osamah Saeedi, Named to Leadership Appointments in Department of Ophthalmology

Two senior faculty members in the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences have recently been named to leadership positions.

Lisa S. Schocket, MD, Associate Professor of Ophthalmology and a leading expert in retinal diseases, has been appointed Interim Chair in the Department. She will assume her new position July 1 when **Bennie Jeng, MD, MS**, transitions from his current chairmanship here at the UMSOM. Additionally, physician-scientist and glaucoma specialist **Osamah J. Saeedi, MD, MS**, Associate Professor of Ophthalmology, has been named Vice Chair of the Department.

“As highly experienced and talented academic leaders, both Dr. Schocket and Dr. Saeedi are ideally suited for these positions,” said Dr. Jeng. *“Our department has attracted national attention for its significant accomplishments and strong momentum in all areas of our mission, and I am confident that they will continue to maintain this strong upward trajectory, while opening new doors in clinical care, research, and education.”*

Dr. Schocket is currently the Department’s Vice Chair for Clinical Affairs, Chief of Vitreoretinal Surgery, and Medical Director of the University of Maryland Eye Associates. She specializes in the medical and surgical management of retinal diseases, including diabetic retinopathy, age-related macular degeneration, retinal vascular occlusions,



Lisa S. Schocket, MD



Osamah J. Saeedi, MD, MS

retinal detachments, macular holes, and cataract complications.

“The Department of Ophthalmology boasts a highly coveted residency program with top-notch training, cutting-edge clinical care, a growing academic focus, and a collegial atmosphere,” said Dr. Schocket. *“As a native of Baltimore and a long-time faculty member, I look forward to working with my colleagues to build upon these strengths and provide the very best care for our patients.”*

Dr. Saeedi presently serves as the Department’s Chief of the Glaucoma Service and Director of Clinical Research. His ongoing research focuses on glaucoma, a leading cause of blindness that affects over 3 million Americans, and for which no cure currently exists. Specifically, his research efforts center on using new imaging techniques to develop sensitive biomarkers for glaucoma for early detection, which potentially could save the vision of patients with this disease, allowing them to continue to work and drive.

“I am honored to serve in the role as Vice Chair for Academic Affairs and to help lead our department, particularly at this time of transition,” said Dr. Saeedi.

“I also am grateful to Dean Reece and Dr. Jeng for their leadership, and look forward to working with our interim chair, Dr. Schocket.”

CARTI

CENTER for ADVANCED RESEARCH TRAINING & INNOVATION



Advance Research Training Through Your Gift to CARTI!

This year’s UMSOM Gala celebrates Dean E. Albert Reece’s tenure and lifts up the work of the exciting new Center for Advanced Research Training & Innovation (CARTI), to be led by Dean Reece.

Your gift to CARTI promotes the goals of becoming a centralized “hub” for training in research, scientific communication, and leadership skills for faculty and senior fellows of varying levels of research education. Another good reason to donate? CARTI also fosters research excellence and professional development among underrepresented minority and women faculty.

Will you help fund a center that encourages and inspires the next generation of research scientists? When you **donate today**, you enhance the quality of research training for which UMSOM is nationally recognized. You may also mail your donation directly to the **UMSOM Office of Development** with a check made out to **UMBF, Inc./CARTI** and send to:

University of Maryland School of Medicine

Office of Development

31 S. Greene St., Third Floor

Baltimore, MD 21201

Attn: Traci Morgan

Thank you for your gift!

SOMnews is produced by the University of Maryland School of Medicine Office of Public Affairs

E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA

Executive Vice President for Medical Affairs, UM Baltimore

John Z. and Akiko K. Bowers

Distinguished Professor and Dean, University of Maryland School of Medicine

Chris Hardwick, Executive Editor

Lauren Robinson, Managing Editor

Tom Jemski & Mark Teske, Photos
Dave Beaudouin, Deborah Kotz, Vanessa McMains, Lisa Morris, January Payne,
Contributing Writers

Kris Rifkin, Art Direction



Find the University of Maryland School of Medicine on Facebook, <http://www.facebook.com/Maryland.Medicine> or follow us on Twitter @UMmedschool.



www.medschool.umaryland.edu

May 2022 Vol. 25 No. 5
SOMnews



655 West Baltimore Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201-1559