Now that I’ve been at the University of Maryland School of Medicine in my role as Dean for a couple of months and I’ve had the chance to get acclimated, I am feeling better acquainted with this amazing campus and this exceptional institution. I love working in an academic medical center and I’m so enthusiastic about the opportunities presented to us to lead. I told you that I would reach back out to you about my guiding principles for the SOM, so I’d like to do that now:

Prioritize Our People. Our goal in the Dean’s Office is to engage and partner, to reduce barriers and catalyze productivity, and to recognize and promote values, respect and integrity. Prioritizing our people means we put our faculty, our staff, our students, and our residents, fellows, and postdocs first.

Engagement. We must enhance our engagement and community as we emerge, recover and thrive beyond the pandemic. While Zoom has proven to be an effective method to communicate when it’s not possible to gather in person, we must all work together now to promote the human contact and engagement that best foster community and teamwork.

Leverage Our Rarified Environment. We have a unique opportunity to collaborate with our broader UM Baltimore and College Park communities, as well as JHU, NIH, DOD, FDA, Howard University, Inova Fairfax, GW, MedStar Georgetown, and other academic medical centers to tackle generational challenges in violence, aging, neuroscience, addiction, dementia and mental health, climate medicine, antibiotic resistance and emerging pathogens, and precision medicine. I’ve already met with many of these regional leaders and have many more meetings set up. We will look to develop shared research and training programs, leveraging intellectual, reputational and financial resources to make a significant impact across the tripartite mission in these areas of need.

Excellence. We should strive to be the best in class in everything we do, but we will not try to do everything. Each program and department should focus on excel, professionalizing our work across the tripartite mission.

Service to Community. We are Maryland Medicine and we live in a rich and diverse community. I will look to expand efforts to engage in health care collaborations, education, science training and public health care delivery. Examples of opportunity include efforts to expand cancer screening and build programs that address challenges that are unique to and valued by our African American communities, such as maternal fetal health, cancer prevention, and sickle cell disease.

Enhance Translational Training Pathways. A thriving community requires constant revitalization by youth and imagination. Our major mission is to train the next generation of physicians and scientists. I will look for opportunities to build and support training pathways and develop early career development support and networks. We have a unique opportunity to leverage the NIH, FDA and other academic medical centers to create regional excellence in physician-scientist development.

Data, Data, Data. We need to know where we are and where we are going in order to address challenges and improve our School and clinical practices.

Sincerely Yours,

Mark T. Gladwin, MD
Vice President for Medical Affairs, UM Baltimore
John Z. and Akiko K. Bowers Distinguished Professor and
Dean, University of Maryland School of Medicine

UMSOM CARTI 2022 Scholars for the “Clinical/Translational Research Training Track Pilot Program” Announced

The University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMSOM) Center for Advanced Research Training & Innovation (CARTI) is pleased to announce the 2022 Scholars for the Clinical/Translational Research Training Track Pilot Program.

CARTI Training Tracks are designed as a “first stop” for senior fellows and junior faculty within their first few years of appointment who have not successfully secured extramural funding and who need additional experience in research to advance in their career, and/or prior to pursuing an advanced degree or formal certificate program. The purpose of creating the CARTI Training Tracks is to increase the pool of clinician-scientists and basic scientists engaged in research; to build stronger research partnerships; to strengthen the existing portfolio of evidence-based clinical care; and to increase the amount of research funding that is competitively secured.

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One of the most upsetting aspects of age-related memory decline is not being able to remember the face that accompanies the name of a person you just talked with hours earlier. While researchers don’t understand why this dysfunction occurs, a new study conducted at University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMSOM) has provided some important new clues.

A person’s blood type may be linked to their risk of having an early stroke, according to a new meta-analysis led by University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMSOM) researchers.
Many researchers who work with mice can tell you that mice behave differently depending on who is handling them. Anecdotal reports and some existing scientific reports indicate that mice tend to be more fearful and uptight around men, and relaxed and comfortable around women. Now, researchers at the University of Maryland School of Medicine have shown that mice respond more to the antidepressant effects of the drug ketamine when administered by men and not by women.

The University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMSOM) will receive an $800,000 donation to be used by the University of Maryland Brain and Tissue Bank to advance research into the treatment and cure of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), commonly referred to as Lou Gehrig’s Disease.
The University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMSOM) will receive a new $1 million gift from Maurice N. Reid, MD ’99, CEO and Medical Director, ExpressCare Urgent Care Centers, bringing his total giving to nearly $2.2 million. Dr. Reid, who has been a longtime supporter of the School’s initiatives, is a proud School of Medicine alumnus and member of the Dean’s Board of Visitors. The gift, in support of medical education and the recently implemented Renaissance Curriculum, will be used to renovate UMSOM’s gross anatomy laboratories and modernize that teaching environment for medical students.

“The School of Medicine is deeply grateful to Dr. Reid for his generosity in providing a transformational gift that will undeniably improve the learning environment for all of our students,” said Dean Emeritus Reece, who is the former Executive Vice President for Medical Affairs. “This gift will help guide UMSOM into the future by providing the technologically advanced infrastructure required to equip our students with the fundamental knowledge and skills necessary to practice medicine.”

Dr. Reid noted that modernized teaching facilities and new technology are essential for the implementation of innovative learning methods. “As a physician and graduate of the School of Medicine, I recognize the importance of being on the front lines of medicine and medical education,” said Dr. Reid. “I am thrilled to be able to support the Renaissance Curriculum by supporting the creation of a state-of-the-art anatomical learning facility that will help train future generations of physicians.”

The UMSOM’s commitment to providing and maintaining an appropriate educational environment that is comfortable, technologically current, and conducive to learning is a leading priority for the Office of Medical Education. Donna L. Parker, MD, FACP, Professor of Medicine and Senior Associate Dean for Undergraduate Medical Education, believes the anatomy lab renovations afforded by Dr. Reid’s gift will benefit students for the entirety of their pre-clerkship studies. “With our Renaissance Curriculum, students no longer learn anatomy in one course at the beginning of first year,” she said. “They now revisit anatomy subject matter the anatomy laboratory during different blocks over the entire pre-clerkship curriculum. This allows them to learn anatomy along with the physiology and pathophysiology of each organ system.”

The current laboratory, originally built in the 1970s, will receive various “infrastructure improvements along with new equipment, such as moveable and height-adjustable operating bed stations with smart monitors and surgical drop lighting,” said Dr. Parker. “We are also looking to add innovative technology to the facility. This gift from Dr. Reid will make it possible to provide our students with a wonderful and updated environment in which to learn.”

Adam C. Puche, PhD, Professor and Vice Chair of the Dept of Anatomy & Neurobiology at the UMSOM, added: “As part of the Renaissance Curriculum, the teaching of anatomy was restructured with heightened clinical relevancy and tight integration into systems-based learning. During this process, we recognized the existing UMSOM gross anatomy laboratory infrastructure was inadequate to deliver modern teaching technologies to our students. The renovations possible with this gift will upgrade the UMSOM gross anatomy teaching laboratories to a state-of-the-art facility, providing our medical students a modern teaching environment for the study of anatomy.”

Dr. Reid’s record of philanthropic giving to UMSOM is highly notable. His most recent contributions include a donation of $500,000 given in 2019 to support The Maurice N. Reid, MD Collaborative Learning Space. In 2021, he committed to more than $300,000 to support a pilot cohort for Point of Care Ultrasound training for medical students, along with a more recent $100,000 pledge to support the Center for Advanced Research Training & Innovation (CARTI).

Dr. Reid earned his medical degree from the University of Maryland School of Medicine in 1999, followed by a residency in Emergency Medicine at the University of Maryland Medical Center. After completing his residency, he served as Assistant Professor in the Department of Emergency Medicine at the UMSOM and later worked as Clinical Director of the Emergency department at Bon Secours Hospital in Baltimore, MD. In 2004, Dr. Reid left academia to pursue his desire to open an urgent care center in Harford County. In March of 2005, Dr. Reid founded ExpressCare Urgent Care Centers and opened its first location in Bel Air, MD. Since opening its doors, ExpressCare has grown to over 30 locations in three states and has formed a strategic partnership with LifeBridge Health, which now owns a minority share of ExpressCare.
Dr. Burd is Founding Director of the Integrated Research Center for Fetal Medicine at Johns Hopkins Medicine; Has Published Extensively on Fetal Brain Development and High-Risk Obstetrics

Irina Burd, MD, PhD, a nationally-and internationally-recognized physician-scientist and academic leader who is currently Professor of Gynecology and Obstetrics, and the Founding Director of the Integrated Research Center for Fetal Medicine at Johns Hopkins Medicine (JHM), will become the next Chair of the UMSOM’s Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology & Reproductive Sciences, following a national search. She will begin in her new role, October 17, 2022.

Mark T. Gladwin, MD, who began as Dean of the University of Maryland School of Medicine on August 1, added, "Dr. Burd represents the very best in academic medicine leadership. She has a longstanding and successful commitment to clinical excellence in obstetrics and service to the community. Her success in leading the physician-scientist development programs and OB-GYN fellowship training programs at JHM have impacted educational excellence in the field. Serving as Director of the Integrative Research Center for Fetal Medicine, and Director of Research in the Division of Maternal Fetal Medicine at JHM, she has demonstrated her ability to lead a significant research enterprise. As an investigator, her own research programs have explored the effect of maternal intra-uterine placental inflammation in pregnancy outcomes, supported by continuous NIH R01 funding. I look forward to Dr. Burd joining the UMSOM leadership team!"

Dr. Burd’s Academic Leadership in Maternal-Fetal Medicine

Dr. Burd has made significant contributions to scholarship in fetal medicine and fetal neurology with more than 120 publications. In particular, her cross-disciplinary work is exemplified through her Directorship of the Integrated Research Center for Fetal Medicine at JHU’s School of Medicine. She brought together a team of collaborating faculty in Obstetrics, General Pediatrics, Pediatric Neurology, Environmental Sciences, Pediatric Critical Care, and Pediatric Infectious Diseases, and has collaborated in research with JHU’s School of Public Health. In addition to basic science work supported by two NIH R01 grants, she expanded her research program to translational and clinical work (supported by NIH R21 and U01 grants), and served as co-investigator on multiple NIH R01s.

Her current total research funds are $3.2 million. Over the course of her career she has secured over $20 million in NIH, foundation, and philanthropic funding for her work. Her research specifically focuses on how exposure to infections and other sources of inflammation during pregnancy can impact fetal programming, events occurring during critical points of pregnancy that may cause permanent effects on the fetus and the infant long after birth. She is seeking to determine whether inflammation affects neurons in the fetal brain and whether it causes epigenetic changes that increase the risk of mental illness and behavioral disorders like autism.

Dr. Burd’s National Leadership

Dr. Burd is active in the Society of Maternal Fetal Medicine (SMFM) and Society of Reproductive Investigations (SRI). Within SMFM, she was the organizing director of the Prematurity Scientific Forum, organized and co-moderated the State of Science Symposium, and is part of the planning committee for the SMFM 2022 First-Year Fellows Retreat. Within SRI, she currently chairs CME Membership and Nominations committees. She was the Program Director for the international annual meeting (Boston, MA in July of 2021) as well as currently serves as a member of SRI Council. She now serves as the Past President of the Perinatal Research Society (PRS) and the President of the American Society of Reproductive Immunology (ASRI). Since 2016, for five years, she served as the Chair of the NIH Obstetrics and Maternal Fetal Biology Study Section (CHHD-B).

Dr. Burd is the recipient of numerous honors, including the Ikaria Research Award from the Perinatal Research Society, a research award from the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology/American Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists Foundation; the Thomas R. Boggs Jr. Research Award from the Philadelphia Perinatal Society; the Passano Foundation Clinician Scientist Award, SRI President’s Achievement Award; and ASRI Distinguished Service Award.

Dr. Burd earned her undergraduate degree from Rutgers University. She completed the combined M.D./Ph.D. Degree program at Rutgers University-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. She completed her residency in obstetrics and gynecology at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital and performed a fellowship in maternal-fetal medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Burd joined the Johns Hopkins faculty in 2011 and has risen through the ranks to full Professor. She was born in Ukraine, and speaks English, Russian, and Ukrainian.

“I am excited to join the University of Maryland family, and to continue to lead the efforts to further its national and international reputation in Obstetrics and Gynecology,” said Dr. Burd. “I am also excited for the opportunity to work at an institution with ties across the state of Maryland. I believe there are opportunities across the state, to improve quality and safety initiatives, and to attract the patient population for specialized care through telemedicine as well as through service lines. Lastly, and most importantly, the prospect of developing the next generation of academic clinicians, clinician-scientists, and scientists pursuing the dream of making reproductive health our priority, as well as leading the incredible group of existing faculty members, would be both personally and professionally rewarding.”

Dr. Burd will succeed Christopher Harman, MD, who served as Chair of the Department for 12 years, as Interim Chair from 2010 to 2012 and as Permanent Chair from 2012 to present. He will remain on the faculty as a senior faculty member with expertise in maternal-fetal medicine in the UMSOM Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology & Reproductive Sciences.
In front of an audience of family members, UMSOM faculty and staff, and distinguished invited guests, Rodney J. Taylor, MD, MPH, Professor and Chair, Department of Otorhinolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery, acknowledged his appointment as The Bruce and Isobel Cleland Chair of Otorhinolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery. “I would like to express my deepest appreciation and gratitude to the Cleland family for your transformative commitment to create the Bruce and Isobel Cleland Chair of Otorhinolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery,” said Dr. Taylor. “Our department will honor your values and emulate your spirit. If one day someone was to describe our department as one that embodies the values of resilience, generosity, and service as your family has, I could not be prouder.”

Dr. Taylor is the first African American to serve as a chairman of a US medical school department of Otolaryngology in the history of the specialty. A distinguished physician-scientist and head and neck surgeon, Dr. Taylor joined the faculty at UMSOM in 2001. He has been consistently named a Top Doctor by US News and World Report, Baltimore Magazine, and Black Enterprise magazine.

The investiture ceremony was recently held at the University of Maryland, Baltimore’s Westminster Hall. Kevin J. Cullen, MD, The Marlene and Stewart Greenebaum Distinguished Professor of Oncology and Director of the Greenebaum Comprehensive Cancer Center at UMSOM, served as master of ceremonies. Following his opening remarks, Dean Emeritus and Former Executive Vice President, E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA, recognized the generous benefactors, the late Bruce Cleland and his wife, Isobel Cleland, who established the endowed professorship. The Clelands funded the endowed chair to honor Dr. Taylor in recognition of his outstanding clinical care of Mr. Cleland, who was his patient from 2007 to 2021.

While Mr. Cleland’s appointment as CEO of Towson-based hedge fund Campbell and Company first brought his family to Baltimore, they have become an integral part of Baltimore’s philanthropic landscape over the past 30 years. In 2005, The Clelands funded their family foundation, The Orokawa Foundation, with a mission to support human and community services in Maryland and beyond. Currently, Mrs. Cleland presides over the foundation, alongside the family’s private family office.

“On behalf of the entire School of Medicine, I would like to thank the Cleland family for their generous contribution which has established this endowed professorship,” said Dean Emeritus Reece. Joining Dean Emeritus Reece at the podium were Mrs. Cleland, along with her daughter, Samantha Cleland Manekin. “Rod, it is my great privilege to celebrate you today,” said Mrs. Cleland in recognition of Dr. Taylor. “Your clinical expertise, support, honesty, and kindness have been immeasurable over the past 15 years. I speak on behalf of both myself and Bruce as we thank you for your care and friendship.”

Mrs. Cleland Manekin followed her mother’s sentiments by directly addressing Dr. Taylor. “Rod, today, we get to say thank you for caring for Bruce… thank you for being an unwavering anchor for my mom,” she said. “You are now undoubtedly woven into the fabric of our family’s story, and we could not be humbler and prouder to share in this honor with you today.”
Following remarks by the Cleland family, Mohan Suntha, MD, MBA, President and CEO, University of Maryland Medical System, shared his fond memories of the late Mr. Cleland. “My friend, Bruce Cleland, was a giant among us,” he remarked. “While I find myself missing him terribly every day, I often stop and marvel at what it has meant to be part of the Cleland family. Bruce’s gift of friendship taught me life lessons that have undoubtedly served me well, my children, and the communities we are a part of.”

Among the speakers at the ceremony were two distinguished UMSOM faculty members who are colleagues and personal friends of Dr. Taylor—Bert O’Malley, MD, President and CEO, University of Maryland Medical Center (UMMC) and UMSOM Professor of Otorhinolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery; and Jeffrey S. Wolf, MD, UMSOM Professor of Otorhinolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery. Dr. Taylor was highly praised by both of his peers for his exceptional leadership, tremendously caring spirit, and global humanitarian efforts.

The third speaker was Scott E. Strome, MD, The Robert Kaplan Executive Dean and Vice Chancellor for Clinical Affairs at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center, who perhaps captured the essence of Dr. Taylor when he remarked, “Underneath Rodney’s casual veneer lies the solid core of a man who cares deeply.”
The Clinical/Translational Research Training Track Pilot is the first track to be launched and will provide foundational training to fellows and early-stage faculty in developing and executing a mentored clinical research project. This six-month training program will include didactic instruction, scientific writing instruction, experiential learning, and a capstone project. Upon completion of the training track, CARTI scholars will have a research protocol for a clinical project that they will execute under the guidance of a mentor.

We wish to congratulate the following six scholars and their mentors:

Nicole Putnam, PhD, D (ABMM) – Assistant Professor, Department of Pathology – Mentor: J. Kristie Johnson, PhD, Professor, Department of Pathology

Elizabeth Powell, MD – Assistant Professor, Department of Emergency Medicine – Mentor: Samuel Galvagni, DO, PhD, FCCM, Professor, Department of Anesthesiology

Alexis Salerno, MD – Assistant Professor, Department of Emergency Medicine – Mentors: Michael Witting, MD, Professor, Department of Emergency Medicine, and Kinjal Sethuraman, MD, MPH, Associate Professor, Department of Emergency Medicine

Nikhil Pandey, PhD – Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Neurosurgery – Mentors: Anthony Kim, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Neurosurgery, Graeme Woodworth, MD, Professor, Department of Neurosurgery, and Jeffrey Winkles, PhD, Professor, Department of Surgery

Yohance Allette, MD, PhD – Fellow, Department of Neurology – Mentor: Daniel Harrison, MD, Associate Professor, Department of Neurology

Zaker Rana, MD – Assistant Professor, Department of Radiation Oncology – Mentor: Phuc Tran, MD, PhD, Professor, Department of Radiation Oncology

The UMSOM CARTI Clinical/Translational Research Training Track Pilot Program is led by Jon Mark Hirshon, MD, PhD, MPH, Professor of Emergency Medicine. Following the completion of the Clinical/Translational Research Training Track Pilot, CARTI will launch two additional training tracks, including a Basic/Translational Research Training Track and a Community, Health Equity, & Public Health Research Training Track.

For more information about the training tracks offered by CARTI, visit https://www.medschool.umaryland.edu/CARTI/CARTI-Training-Tracks/