



DEAN'S MESSAGE: What's On My Mind

WHILE WE MAY BE ENTERING A NEW ERA OF AUSTERITY, HISTORY HAS SHOWN THAT UMSOM FACULTY AND STAFF CAN WEATHER SUCH STORMS WITHOUT CUTTING PERSONNEL OR PROGRAMS.

What's on my mind this month are the steps we are taking in the wake of anticipated cuts to federal research funding and Medicare due to the failure of Congress to identify spending reductions in other areas. If these cuts take effect, it could slow the pace of medical breakthroughs and impact the ability of physicians and hospitals to provide access to medical care.

The bipartisan congressional "super committee" charged with identifying cuts in federal spending was unable to reach an agreement, triggering automatic across-the-board cuts of \$1.2 trillion over 10 years. The cuts, which would begin in 2013, could lead to a 9 percent cut in funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH). In addition, payments to Medicare providers would be cut by 2 percent. Medicare also provides funding to support graduate medical education, so the cuts could have a detrimental effect on residency training. The full impact of the Medicare cuts on hospitals and physicians remains to be seen, but the American College of Physicians said the trigger puts "patients' access to healthcare in grave peril."

The NIH cuts could result in up to 2,700 fewer funded research projects. Since a substantial portion of grants and contracts to the University of Maryland School of Medicine flow through the NIH, this could have a significant impact on funding for fundamental and translational-clinical research. The cuts would likely affect young scientists more strongly than established researchers.

In light of this worst case scenario, we are conducting a "what if" analysis to determine how the cuts would impact research and patient care, and to better understand our budgetary options. In addition we are closely examining our research portfolio to identify the most promising funding opportunities in the future. For example, it's unlikely

that all funding sources will be affected by the cuts in the same way. Funding for homeland security or defense related research projects may be affected less.

Our contingency plans also involve our faculty recruitment efforts. Going forward we will take both a proactive and defensive stance when hiring new faculty. Over the next three to five years, we will focus our recruitment efforts on funded physician scientists and researchers. At the same time, we are accelerating internal educational programs to help young researchers compete more effectively for grants and contracts.

I remain hopeful that lawmakers will take action to prevent these cuts from taking effect. I am working with a national consortium of medical school deans to ensure that our voice is heard in Congress and that lawmakers understand the impact that these cuts would have.

Research provides the impetus for the innovation and discovery that leads to new treatments and cures.

Therefore, it is imperative that we buffer the effects of any cuts that may occur. While we may be entering a new era of austerity, history has shown that UMSOM faculty and staff can weather such storms without cutting personnel or programs. In fact, since the economic downturn in 2008, our research enterprise has flourished and we have been recognized by the Association of American Medical Colleges as one of the fastest growing research institutions in the country. The possibility of future funding cuts is a stark reality, but we can rest assured that we are prepared for the challenge and will continue to succeed.

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

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



► BY CAELIE HAINES

Superb and Extraordinary

Trauma Chief Travels to War Zone to See Wounded Warrior Program Firsthand

Before going overseas to treat wounded troops, U.S. Air Force physicians, nurses and medical technicians complete a three-week immersion course to refresh their training in trauma care at the world-renowned R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center at the University of Maryland Medical Center.

Thomas M. Scalea, MD, physician-in-chief of the R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center and the Francis X. Kelly Professor in Trauma Surgery at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, traveled to Afghanistan in October 2011 at the invitation of the U.S. military. He observed the "Wounded Warrior" care system in the field, during transport and in military hospitals. Dr. Scalea believes trips to war zones help fine-tune the pre-deployment medical training Shock Trauma provides.

Dr. Scalea's mission in the war zone was to provide unbiased recommendations on how to improve the system, as well as to better determine how to continually refine the trauma training he and his staff provide for the U.S. Air Force C-STARS (Center for Sustainment of Trauma and Readiness Skills) program. This program began at the Shock Trauma Center shortly after September 11, 2001.



Dr. Scalea, left, had the opportunity to tour a flying hospital, above, during a recent trip to Afghanistan.

cargo plane, wore 150 pounds of equipment, and experienced daily dust storms and scorching 100-degree temperatures.

"It is a testament to technology and commitment from the military to equip a cargo plane to be a flying hospital," Dr. Scalea said. "Care being administered by the military is not only being done safely, it is being done

More than 3,500 Air Force medics have trained in the program over the last 10 years, and they have cared for at least 35,000 troops during that time by conservative estimates, although the actual number is likely to be far higher, said Air Force Lt. Col. Raymond Fang, MD, director of the C-STARS program in Baltimore.

While in Afghanistan, Dr. Scalea operated on wounded troops, traveled aboard a C-130

► BY MEGHAN SCALEA

JOHN OLSON Appointed New Head of the Division of General and Surgical Oncology

THE DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY has announced the appointment of John Olson, MD, PhD, as the new head of the Division of General and Surgical Oncology. Dr. Olson will also become the Campbell and Jeanette Plugge Professor and Vice Chair of the Department of Surgery. Dr. Olson currently is the Chief, Section of Endocrine, Breast, and Oncologic Surgery at the Duke University Medical Center where he has been on the faculty since 2000.

Dr. Olson will immediately begin visiting our campus and will begin full time on February 1, 2012.

Dr. Olson is a nationally recognized surgeon-scientist who is funded by the National Institutes of Health, including a newly awarded R01 grant to study molecular mechanisms of altered calcium sensing in human parathyroid disease.



Dr. Olson will unite the Divisions of General Surgery and Surgical Oncology under one umbrella. He has developed a highly ambitious vision for the growth of the clinical, scientific, and educational programs of the Department of Surgery. The Department of Surgery is already ninth of all academic Departments of Surgery in the United States in NIH funding. With Dr. Olson's leadership, we expect to further expand our strong scientific programs and increase our high-visibility research funding.

Dr. Olson received his MD and PhD in Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics from the University of Florida. He received his general surgery training at Washington University in St. Louis. He completed his surgical oncology training at the renowned Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center.

► BY KAREN ROBINSON

MARGARET MCCARTHY Appointed Chair Department of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND School of Medicine Dean E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA, has appointed Margaret M. McCarthy, PhD, as the new chair of the Department of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics.

Dr. McCarthy has served in a number of leadership roles since joining the medical school in 1993, most notably associate dean, graduate and postdoctoral studies and interim chair, Department of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics. She will maintain secondary appointments as a professor of physiology and psychiatry.

"Dr. McCarthy is an exceptional scientist who has been widely recognized as a leader in the field of neuroscience," said Dean Reece, who also is vice president for medical affairs at the University of Maryland and John Z. and Akiko K. Bowers Distinguished Professor, University of Maryland School of Medicine. "She has demonstrated excellence in biomedical research, administrative and leadership duties as well as in teaching and mentoring medical and graduate students. Dr. McCarthy is a wonderful asset to the School of Medicine."

Dr. McCarthy replaces Edson Albuquerque, Ph.D. who led the department for the past 36 years. "I am confident Dr. McCarthy will continue the exceptional leadership displayed by Dr. Albuquerque, and will direct the department into a newly intensified focus on research and scholarship," said Dean Reece.

"I am looking forward to working with our many excellent faculty members to make our enterprise even stronger," said Dr. McCarthy. "My hope is to revitalize the department and its exceptional work by recruiting energizing new talent to the School of Medicine."

Dr. McCarthy is a highly regarded scientist for her path breaking work on the cellular mechanisms mediating hormonal modulation of the developing brain.

Dr. McCarthy is a highly regarded scientist for her path breaking work on the cellular mechanisms mediating hormonal modulation of the developing brain. Currently, Dr. McCarthy is principal investigator on five NIH grants: 3 R01 grants, a project on a PO1, and a T32 training grant, totaling close to \$4.5 million in federal funds. She has been continuously funded by the NIH since joining the faculty and previously received funding from the National Science Foundation and the Department of Defense. There are currently two F30 and one F31 NRSA grants held by members of her laboratory, and she has been the faculty PI on two K01, three F-series, and two Maryland Stem Cell Commission grants. She has mentored 10 graduate students, including three MD/PhD, 15 postdoctoral trainees, and an additional 30 undergraduate and high school students. In addition, she has served on 22 graduate thesis committees.

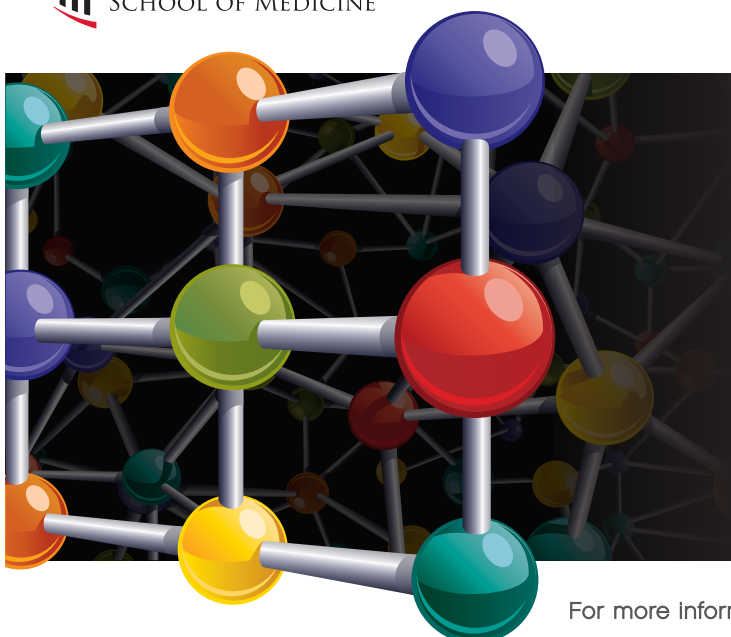
She has served on many committees, peer-review panels and workgroups for the National Institutes of Health, the Environmental Protection Agency, and several prominent national academic and research organizations. Dr. McCarthy has exhibited tremendous productivity as a scholar, publishing more than 100 refereed journal publications, and 60 book chapters and invited review articles. She is an editor at *Endocrinology*, associate editor of the *Journal of Neuroscience* and has guest edited two books and multiple journal special issues. She is a highly sought-after lecturer nationally and internationally, having given plenary and keynote lectures throughout the U.S. and in New Zealand, Japan, Iran, Slovenia, Mexico, and much of Europe.

Dr. McCarthy received her BA and MA degrees in Biology from the University of Missouri in 1981 and 1984. She then went on to earn her PhD from the Institute of Animal Behaviors at Rutgers University in 1989, followed by fellowships at Rockefeller University (1989–1992) and the National Research Council of the National Institutes of Health (1992–1993).

"Dr. McCarthy is an outstanding scientist, educator and leader who has built a long record of exceptional accomplishments in her career already," said Dean Reece. "I am certain she will excel and flourish in her new role."



building beyond tomorrow
2012 fund for medicine gala



save the date

Saturday, March 3, 2012

6:00 p.m. until 11:30 p.m.

Hilton Baltimore Hotel

401 West Pratt Street, Baltimore, MD 21201

For more information about the event please contact Heather Norton at 410.706.0818

The School of Medicine Will Mourn the Loss of Dr. Sewell

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Duane Sewell, MD, associate professor, Department of Otorhinolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery, who passed away on November 27, 2011 following a battle with gastric cancer. He was 44 years old.

"We have lost a dear friend and a wonderful colleague in Duane Sewell," said Scott Strome, MD, department chair, in a letter to colleagues. "Duane embodied the highest qualities of an academic physician—always providing outstanding personalized care for his patients, serving as a tremendous educational resource, and seeking to better the human condition through his research. Despite his myriad of tangible achievements, it was his intangible qualities that made Duane truly special. He lived his life with integrity, dignity and quiet strength. He always held his friends and family in the highest regard. He was a man of deep faith and was a mentor in the truest sense of the word. In short, he made a difference."



A memorial service for family and friends was held in Philadelphia and in Baltimore. "I am working with Duane's family, the Department of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery, UMMC and the School of Medicine Leadership, to determine the most appropriate way to honor Duane and his family," said Dr. Strome.

In the meantime, in lieu of flowers, donations in Dr. Sewell's honor can be made to the University of Maryland Department of Otorhinolaryngology (Ear, Nose, Throat) via the Office of Development website. Please specify "The Sewell Head and Neck Cancer Research Fund" in the memo line. Or, mailed donations can be forwarded to: University of Maryland School of Medicine, Office of Development, Attn: Patricia Bates, 100

North Greene Street, Suite 600 Baltimore, MD 21201

Please include a note saying you would like your donation to go to the Sewell Fund.

► BY CAELIE HAINES

22nd Annual Project Feast

An Eye-Opening and Heart-Warming Experience

For the 22nd year, students from the University of Maryland School of Medicine helped organize Project Feast, a Thanksgiving meal for homeless and disadvantaged persons in West Baltimore. Students, faculty, staff, and friends from several of the University of Maryland's six professional schools gathered at Booker T. Washington Middle School to host the holiday meal for our neighbors in need. It is a Thanksgiving tradition co-sponsored by the Medical Alumni Association, the University's Student Government Association, and the School of Medicine Student Council.

In recent years, there has been a growing line of people waiting to get in when the doors open, and this year was no different. In addition to serving a hot Thanksgiving meal, volunteers distributed clothing, non-perishable food and other donated goods. Almost 100 students volunteered for the event, with approximately 400 meals served annually.

IN ADDITION TO SERVING A HOT THANKSGIVING MEAL, VOLUNTEERS DISTRIBUTED CLOTHING, NON-PERISHABLE FOOD AND OTHER DONATED GOODS.

also a second-year student in the School of Medicine. "Interacting with our peers, future patients, and those who are less fortunate than us gives us a glimpse into their lives and struggles as they make ends meet. At the end of the day, I could look forward to going home and having a great meal with my family and friends, which is unfortunately more than most of the people who attend Project Feast's Thanksgiving Dinner are able to say."

University President Jay A. Perman, MD, said, "I am very proud of the 20 years of service by the University of Maryland community who serve the Project Feast Thanksgiving meal to our West Baltimore neighbors and the School of Medicine students who collect donations and organize the event. This is another opportunity for all of our schools to collaborate and make an important difference in our community."

"We're proud that our medical students have taken a leadership role in this ongoing partnership to share the spirit of giving with our neighbors in West Baltimore each holiday season," said E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA, vice president for medical affairs, University of Maryland, and John Z. and Akiko K. Bowers Distinguished Professor and dean, University of Maryland School of Medicine. "Project Feast is in keeping with the School of Medicine's commitment to supporting our community in West Baltimore in a variety of ways."

"I think it's important to remember that the University is part of a greater community, even though it's so easy to get wrapped up in our academic lives," said Grace Kim, a second-year student from the School of Medicine who helped organize the event. "Volunteering with Project Feast was a great experience."

"This is my second year doing Project Feast. When I signed up last year, I didn't really know what to expect other than to help our community in need. I found out that there is so much more, even here in Baltimore, than what we are exposed to when we live in our little bubble at school," added Andrew Dubina, another organizer who is



Second-year students Elizabeth Coe, Andrew Dubina and Grace Kim organized this year's Project Feast.



Trauma Trip [continued from page 1]

superbly. Even while flying 30,000 feet in the air in one of these cargo planes, everyone focused on the delivery of an extraordinary level of care."

For the troops injured last month in Afghanistan, he said, the survival rate was 96 percent. Most injuries are caused by improvised explosive devices (IEDs), which most often injure the lower extremities when a soldier unwittingly steps onto one.

"We don't think [the survival rate] is going to get any better than that," Dr. Scalea said. The focus is on continuing to refine and adapt care so that troops recover a high quality of life and function.

"How do we not lose the lessons that we learn in Afghanistan?" asked Dr. Scalea. "It sure would be nice to have all of that knowledge packaged. We can pack these lessons in a digestible form so that the next time there's a war, we can open the box."

But he said it's likely the weapons and injuries will be different in a future war, requiring changes in treatment, and therefore changes in training.

"That's why I think programs like C-STARS are so important," Dr. Scalea said.

“It is a testament to technology and commitment from the military to equip a cargo plane to be a flying hospital.”

Bake Sale

Luke Pound celebrated his 12th birthday in October in an unusual way—he held a bake sale fundraiser for the Pediatric AIDS Program at the University of Maryland Children’s Hospital, led by Vicki J. Tepper, PhD, associate professor, Department of Pediatrics. Moved by a lesson on AIDS in health class, Luke rallied his friends and neighbors in Catonsville and raised more than \$1,800 to benefit the program, which supports children with HIV and AIDS. He is pictured here with his health teacher, Liz Getsinger, left, and his mother, Melissa Pound.



PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Entry, located on Front Street by W. Seminary Avenue in Lutherville, MD
Photo by: **Bill Hinzman**, Project Manager/Sign Coordinator, University of Maryland Administration and Finance, Architect, Engineering and Construction

Call for Photos!

Send in photos of your favorite winter activity for the next Call for Photos. To participate, submit your photograph(s) to photos@som.umaryland.edu by February 1, 2012.

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