UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

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2012 STATE OF THE SCHOOL ADDRESS

"Forging Ahead: Defining New Pathways in Challenging Times" was the theme for the 2012 State of the School Address, delivered by 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. Speaking to a standing-room-only crowd in the MSTF auditorium, Dean Reece said the School of Medicine's research and clinical enterprises continue to be successful despite a series of challenges and roadblocks. "The rising costs of health care, the impact of the uninsured and the under-insured, the discontinuation of stimulus funding from Congress, as well as the flat funding of the NIH budget, have forestalled the growth of our research enterprise and slowed scientific progress," said Dean Reece. "In spite of these road blocks, we remain undaunted."

The federal government has passed the Affordable Care Act, which has been hailed by many in the academic community as a tremendous response to our nation's growing health care crisis. "This new legislation offers us one new path to our ultimate destination," said Dean Reece. "But, we must also "reprogram" our GPS and endeavor to travel alternate routes. New models of health care delivery and non-traditional funding are two of the ways that we can continue to expand our clinical and research enterprises. Accountable care models, patient-centered medical homes, industry partnerships, and private philanthropy are some of the approaches that will provide us with viable alternate routes now and in the future."

In addition to flat NIH funding, and the phase out of stimulus funding, the federal government has changed its funding policies for the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). While SOM faculty—through the Institute of Human Virology—continue to conduct AIDS research and service in Africa, the funding now accrues to the country, rather than the School of Medicine. For these reasons, total grants and contracts to the school of Medicine were $429.9 million in FY12. However, when the figures are adjusted for the phasing out of stimulus funding and the changes in PEPFAR funding policies, research funding to the School of Medicine increased 3.4 percent.

Indeed, the research productivity of the faculty is among the highest in the country, and the School of Medicine remains among the fastest growing research enterprises in the country. Among all medical schools, the School of Medicine ranks 8th in direct expenditures per principal investigator, according to the Association for American Medical Colleges (AAMC). SOM principal investigators exceeded the mean by more than $200,000! This exceptional productivity has moved SOM up in the AAMC's overall rankings as well. The School of Medicine now ranks 16th (up from 17th last year) in direct grants and contract expenditures among all 138 medical schools. The School of Medicine now ranks 6th (up from 7th last year) among all 76 public medical schools.

The school's total revenue, which includes grants, tuition, state funding, faculty practice and philanthropic gifts, was $885 million. Forty-eight percent of total revenue came from grants and contracts, while clinical revenue accounted for 44 percent. The performance of our practice plan was impressive. Total clinical revenues increased 7.6 percent to a record high of $244.2 million, and total patient volume increased 3.3 percent. Through our strong partnership with the University of Maryland Medical System, faculty physicians treated 1.1 million patients in in FY12.

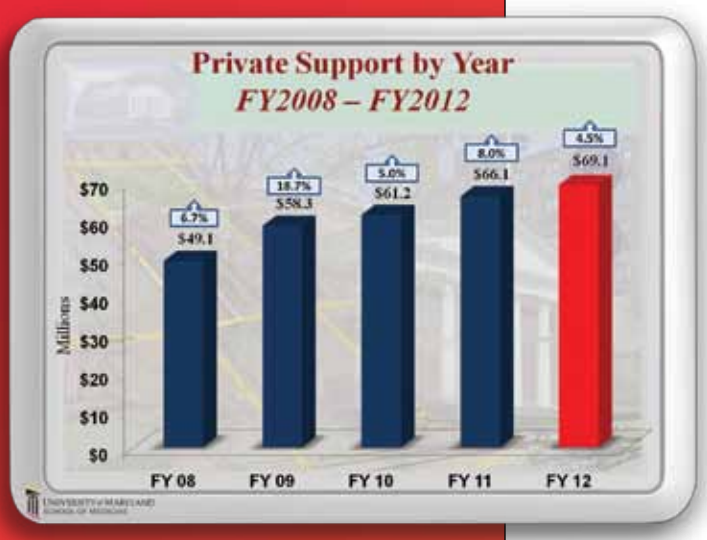
Despite the challenging economic landscape, philanthropic funding for the school remained strong, thanks to generous private gifts and endowments, which increased 4.5 percent to $69.1 million in FY12. These gifts included more than $19 million in gifts from private donors, and gifts to fund endowed professorships.

Highlights from the last year are many, and include:

- The University of Maryland completed the most extensive full-face transplant to date in a 36-hour operation at the R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center at the University of Maryland Medical Center. The operation involved a multi-disciplinary team of faculty physicians and a team of over 150 nurses and professional staff, and was the culmination of more than a decade of research.
- The Maryland General Assembly approved $4.7 million in new matching funds for the design of Health Sciences Facility III (HSF III).
- The Graduate Program in Life Sciences (GPILS) continued to enhance the research mission of the School of Medicine with a 11 percent increase in student research funding and 167 publications by GPILS students.
- Thanks to the outstanding clinical faculty, nurses and staff, the University of Maryland Medical Center has been ranked by U.S. News and World Report among the nation's top 50 best hospitals in nine specialties.
- School of Medicine discoveries and clinical achievements received extensive national and international news coverage, with more than 100 additional stories per month in FY12.

"We are, indeed, at a crossroads in our institutional history," said Dean Reece. "Despite the obstructions and the detours we have faced, our destination is in sight and our GPS is locked on our destination. I have the utmost confidence that, together, we will faithfully pursue our original goals, and develop new pathways to guarantee our safe arrival."

ACCOUNTABLE CARE MODELS, PATIENT-CENTERED MEDICAL HOMES, INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS, AND PRIVATE PHILANTHROPY ARE SOME OF THE APPROACHES THAT WILL PROVIDE US WITH VIABLE ALTERNATE ROUTES NOW AND IN THE FUTURE.



DR. ZELJKO VUJASKOVIC to Head Radiation Oncology's New Division of Translational Radiation Sciences

University of Maryland School of Medicine Dean E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA, and William Regine, MD, chairman of the Department of Radiation Oncology, have appointed Zeljko Vujaskovic, MD, PhD, as professor and director of the new Division of Translational Radiation Sciences in the Department of Radiation Oncology.

"The Department of Radiation Oncology is a cornerstone of the University of Maryland School of Medicine's burgeoning research enterprise, and a critical part of the world-leading patient care provided by our faculty at the University of Maryland Marlene and Stewart Greenebaum Cancer Center," 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. "The new Division of Translational Radiation Sciences will serve to further expand and centralize our cutting-edge research in radiation biology, leading the exploration of new ways to treat and eradicate deadly cancers. Dr. Vujaskovic is an accomplished, National Institutes of Health-funded physician-scientist with outstanding leadership skills and a distinguished career in research and patient care. I am confident he will lead our faculty to new heights."

Dr. Vujaskovic joined the School of Medicine on August 6 from his previous position as professor and Director of the Normal Tissue Injury Laboratory and Director of the General Clinical Research Center, both at Duke University Medical Center. He is a nationally and internationally recognized leader in the field of radiation-related normal tissue injury.

The new Division of Translational Radiation Sciences will bring together the department's basic science research activities in radiation biology. In his new role as division director, Dr. Vujaskovic will take the lead in defining the use of radioprotectors and sensitizers in treating a broad spectrum of malignancies. He will work closely with Thomas MacVittie, PhD, professor of radiation oncology, and director of the preclinical radiobiology program.

"Our Department of Radiation Oncology is ranked among the top 10 nationwide in federally funded research," says Dr. Regine, who is a professor and Isadore & Fannie Schneider Foxman Endowed Chair in Radiation Oncology at the School of Medicine. "We are growing exponentially in our research and clinical care efforts. Dr. Vujaskovic's long record of internationally recognized leadership and outstanding science and patient care make him the ideal candidate to direct our new division and to further elevate our already strong department."

IN HIS NEW ROLE AS DIVISION DIRECTOR, DR. VUJASKOVIC WILL TAKE THE LEAD IN DEFINING THE USE OF RADIOPROTECTORS AND SENSITIZERS IN TREATING A BROAD SPECTRUM OF MALIGNANCIES.

Dr. Vujaskovic currently directs a robust research program with nearly $4 million in external funding, including from the National Institutes of Health. His research focuses on how to predict, prevent and modify normal tissue response to radiation. He also examines the use of hyperthermia in the treatment of cancer.

"I am looking forward to working with the many highly regarded physician-scientists at the University of Maryland to enhance my own research as well as theirs, and to advance the science of radiation oncology to ultimately help more patients," says Dr. Vujaskovic. "Radiation science is changing and improving every day, and I hope to help keep our department at the forefront of this exciting and dynamic field of medicine."

► BY CAELIE HAINES

Dr. Jian-Ying Wang is the Inaugural Joseph & Corrine Schwartz Endowed Professor in Surgery

A ceremony was held on June 13, 2012 to invest Jian-Ying Wang, MD, PhD, as the inaugural Joseph and Corinne Schwartz Endowed Professor in Surgery. Dr. Wang has been at the School of Medicine since 1984 and also is associate chair for basic research in the Department of Surgery and a senior research career scientist at the U.S. Department for Veteran Affairs. Family and friends of Dr. Wang came from as far away as China to share in this honor with him.

This investiture ceremony continued the School of Medicine's tradition of honoring faculty members who receive endowed professorships with a special medal to uniquely recognize their accomplishment. "Endowed professorships are critical to achieving and increasing our standing among other medical schools," 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 also provide our outstanding faculty members with the critical resources they need to sustain and grow promising research, to launch innovative clinical initiatives, and to educate and train future physicians and scientists."

Helping to honor Dr. Wang was the man who helped train him, mentor Leonard Johnson, PhD, the Thomas A. Gerwin Professor of Physiology at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center. "He has done great work, work that is important to his science and to medicine in general," he said. "He's an extremely imaginative individual, tackling new ideas and new methods without being intimidated, and this shows in all the different things he has done."

Dr. Wang is also an excellent teacher, according to colleague Marc Basson, MD, PhD, Professor and Chairman of the Department of Surgery at the College of Human Medicine, Michigan State University. "I've watched him through the years create scientists who have gone on to be funded on their own, and that's not always common. There are many good scientists who don't breed other scientists, but Jian-Ying does. He's a great inspiration."

The professorship was gifted by Joseph and Corinne Schwartz, longtime benefactors to the University of Maryland. Richard Schwartz—attending on behalf of his mother and late father—reflected, "growing up, sadakah meant to me putting a quarter in a little tin can passed around in school. To [my parents], it meant donating millions to the University of Maryland Medical System and many others, to help others have an easier life," said Mr. Schwartz. "I am so very proud to be here representing my parents. Theirs is a wonderful legacy, one that my family cherishes and hopes to continue."

► BY KAREN ROBINSON

Brian DeFilippis Named Associate Dean for Development

University of Maryland School of Medicine Dean E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA, has appointed Brian J. DeFilippis, MS, as the new associate dean for development and chief development officer.

In his new role, Mr. DeFilippis will oversee the fundraising enterprise of the School of Medicine, while remaining in his position as special assistant to the dean. He has served as acting associate dean since November 2011.

"Development is a critical component of the School of Medicine, enabling and supporting our mission as a top-tier research, patient care and educational institution," 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 School of Medicine. "Without the generosity of donors, achieving our ambitious goals of advancing medical science and improving human health would not be possible. Mr. DeFilippis has exceeded my expectations during his temporary role, proving himself to be an outstanding leader and the ideal candidate to advance the Office of Development and this entire institution."

"...the overarching goal is to secure ever-increasing levels of private support to reward our exceptional faculty members and talented medical students."

As associate dean for development, Mr. DeFilippis will oversee the entire development staff. He will also direct the School of Medicine's current capital campaign, "Transforming Medicine Beyond Imagination," to achieve its $500 million goal in its final three years, and will lead fundraising for the School of Medicine's Health Sciences Facility III Biomedical Research Building, a planned facility that will add much-needed laboratory and office space to the School of Medicine's West Baltimore campus.

"I am humbled and honored to be selected for this very important post at the School of Medicine," says Mr. DeFilippis. "My passion for this institution runs very deep, and it is my plan to build a development program that compliments the explosive growth and tremendous success experienced more broadly by the School of Medicine, especially in recent years. Obviously, the overarching goal is to secure ever-increasing levels of private support to reward our exceptional faculty members and talented medical students. In order to do that, we will need to strengthen existing relationships with alumni, friends, faculty, and staff and cultivate new relationships with influential and affluent individuals who wish to ensure that our institution maintains its outstanding reputation."

BY KAREN ROBINSON

Dr. Elias Melhem Appointed New Chairman of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine

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, has appointed Elias R. Melhem, MD, a physician-scientist with extensive experience in the research and clinical practice of neuroradiology, to serve as the John Dennis Chairman of the Department of Diagnostic Radiology & Nuclear Medicine.

"The Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine is an outstanding leader in the growth and expansion of our research, patient care and educational enterprises here at the University of Maryland," says Dean Reece. "Its distinguished faculty physicians employ cutting-edge technology to provide the many departments and specialties within our medical school with unparalleled radiology expertise, helping to diagnose and treat patients across the spectrum of disease. The department's robust research enterprise is exploring the next generation in imaging technology and techniques. Dr. Melhem is a brilliant physician-scientist with an innovative vision of how academic radiology will be practiced in the future. I am certain that with his very strong record of academic accomplishments, along with his collaborative style and strong interpersonal skills, he will be able to effectively lead this large department to the next level of excellence and strengthen its position as a national leader in its field."

"My goal is to bring the department's external funding into the top 10 among radiology departments nationwide."

Dr. Melhem joined the University of Maryland School of Medicine from the University of Pennsylvania, where he served as the Wallace Miller Sr. Vice Chair for Academic Affairs, professor of radiology and neurosurgery and director of the Division of Neuroradiology. Dr. Melhem took over the leadership of the Department of Radiology and Nuclear Medicine from interim chair William F. Regine, MD, a professor and the Isadore & Fannie Schneider Foxman Endowed Chairman of the Department of Radiation Oncology. "I offer my sincere thanks to Dr. Regine for his excellent leadership of the department during his time as interim chair," says Dean Reece.

"I look forward to being a part of the University of Maryland's collaborative environment and the enthusiasm and ambition of its research scientists," says Dr. Melhem. "The entire School of Medicine is rapidly rising in the research rankings and scholarship nationwide, and I want to join that process. I feel strongly that this is the perfect time for me to join the University of Maryland and to be a part of that rise."

Joining Dr. Melhem at the University of Maryland is his wife, Lina Y. Melhem, MD, who has an appointment in the Division of Endocrinology in the Department of Medicine. Her recruitment marks a return to the University of Maryland, where she completed her residency and a fellowship in endocrinology at the University of Maryland Medical Center.

Dr. Elias Melhem directs a robust research program and has received significant National Institutes of Health funding throughout his career. He currently has nearly $10 million in external research funding from the NIH to support his research program. His research focuses in part on brain function in children with sickle cell disease. His laboratory has used techniques such as functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) to discover that sickle cell causes progressive cognitive impairment in such children. His laboratory also examines changes in vascular reactivity to examine how tumors transform from benign to malignant, in hopes of finding early indicators for this malignant transformation. His team also uses advanced MRI techniques to evaluate upper motor neuron disease in patients with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehrig's disease.

Dr. Melhem hopes to continue his own research at the University of Maryland and enhance the already strong research program of the entire department. "My goal is to bring the department's external funding into the top 10 among radiology departments nationwide," he says. Dr. Melhem also hopes to expand and improve clinical care and to strengthen the department's educational enterprise, emphasizing research as well as clinical care for students. "Dr. Melhem has led a distinguished and accomplished career, and I am certain that he will elevate our department to new heights," says Dean Reece.

Change in Leadership in the Office of Information Services

James McNamee, PhD, associate dean for Information Services and Chief Information Officer, retired from the University of Maryland School of Medicine on August 3. "Dr. McNamee has been an integral part of the leadership team and has made significant and outstanding contributions to enhance and expand the School's information technology infrastructure," 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.

Dr. McNamee was appointed Associate Dean of Information Services and Chief Information Officer for the School of Medicine in 2001. He expanded the School's Office of Information Services from its initial mission of delivering IT services to the Dean's Office into an operation that now serves the needs of thousands of members of our academic community. Under Dr. McNamee's leadership, the size of the School's data network grew five-fold, and its speed and capacity improved more than 100-fold. These and other enhancements to systems and services facilitated the School's sustained growth of the research enterprise.

Beginning in 2003, Dr. McNamee spearheaded network and data security measures while serving as the School's I-IIPAA Privacy Official and Security Officer. He drew upon these early successes to help researchers later meet stringent federal requirements to safeguard their data. He oversaw the creation and management of IT systems that greatly enhanced research record-keeping and compliance. He also worked closely with his counterparts on campus and across the University System of Maryland to implement solutions to shared IT concerns. Dr. McNamee's local and national contributions to the profession were recognized with a Lifetime Achievement Award, presented to him by the Association of American Medical College's (AAMC) Group on Information Resources.

Sharon Bowser, MBA, the current Deputy Chief Information Officer, will serve as the Interim Chief and Acting Associate Dean for SOM Information Services.

BY SARAH PICK

New Microbiome Publication

Jacques Ravel, PhD, Co-Editor-in-Chief

Jacques Ravel, PhD

Jacques Ravel, PhD, a professor from the University of Maryland School of Medicine's Institute for Genome Sciences and Eric Wommack, PhD, from the University of Delaware, are the Editors-in-Chief of *Microbiome*, a new BioMed Central (BMC) publication, which is scheduled for its first issue this fall.

The new publication reflects the growing importance of the need for studying microorganisms and their function in their natural environment—their microbiome—whether that environment is the human body, an environmental niche or any other habitat. "Microorganisms, by their omnipresence, impact the entire biosphere, including the human body." explains Dr. Ravel, who is studying the effect of the human microbiome on women's health, and is part of the NIH-funded Human Microbiome Project (HMP).

The central purpose of *Microbiome* is to unite investigators conducting microbiome research in environmental, agricultural, and biomedical arenas. Topics broadly addressing the study of microbial communities, such as, microbial genomics surveys, bioinformatics, meta-omics approaches and community/host interaction mathematical modeling will be considered for publication.

"We have set rigorous standards in terms of quality and availability of the data to guarantee that the studies we will be publishing are useful to other scientists," says Dr. Ravel. The journal includes a new section, "Microbiome Announcements," that will contain short reports describing microbiome datasets and their associated clinical or environmental data.

Through this collection of literature, *Microbiome* hopes to integrate researchers with common scientific objectives across a broad cross-section of sub-disciplines within microbiome research. "The studies of the human microbiome and the environment are characterizing key microbial interactions but appear to act independently from one another," says Dr. Ravel. "We hope *Microbiome* will facilitate the conversation that leads to new insights."

UM Shuttle Hits the Streets

Last academic year, the University community lobbied for a shuttle bus service in several monthly Q&A sessions with President Jay Perman, MD. The administration responded by launching the UM Shuttle this fall.

On Aug. 14, buses began taking faculty, staff, students, and University of Maryland Medical Center employees free of charge on three separate routes that "hub" at the corner of Pine and Baltimore streets. The routes reach as far as Mount Vernon, the 1st Mariner Arena, the West Baltimore neighborhoods surrounding the UM BioPark, parts of the Inner Harbor, and the Federal Hill neighborhood south to Fort Avenue.

The Southern Management Corporation Campus Center will offer an information desk with shuttle tracking boards. "Designed to serve residential and high commercial areas in downtown Baltimore frequented by our University community, the shuttle will allow students, faculty, and staff to move around the city in a safe, efficient, and reliable way," says Flavius Lilly, MPH, assistant vice president for academic and student affairs.

> "Easing access to the University, the shuttle will contribute to a safer city, cleaner environment, and better quality of life for those associated with UMB."

"The shuttle is exciting," Lilly says, "because it enhances our urban environment and makes the city more livable. Easing access to the University, the shuttle will contribute to a safer city, cleaner environment, and better quality of life for those associated with UMB."

The shuttle will operate from 6 a.m. until midnight during weekdays and 5 p.m. until midnight on the weekends and during the summer. Each route will have multiple buses. Take note: There will be no service on University holidays, and riders will always need to show a valid University or Medical Center ID card. The UM shuttle replaces the Caravan service, which was a site-to-site transportation service available during limited hours on or near the campus. The wait and ride times were long, and only a small number of individuals used the service.

Details of UM shuttle's three routes—BioPark, Mount Vernon, and Federal Hill—can be found at http://www.umaryland.edu/shuttlebus. Additionally, smartphone users will be able to follow the location and arrival times of buses through the free NextBus app. Bus stops will be marked with UM Shuttle signs, and buses will have bike racks, be handicapped accessible (both as of October), and are equipped with WiFi. Shuttle routes have been designed to connect with other public transportation options such as the Charm City Circulator and Light Rail.

The University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP) Department of Transportation was instrumental in the UM shuttle service's design. "UMCP is considered an expert in university transit services across the country," says Robert Milner, MS, CAPP, director of parking and transportation services for UMB.

The Department of Public Safety is working with student affairs and parking services to make the new UM shuttle program not only a better transportation program, but a safe and secure one as well. "I consider the new shuttle service an integral part of our commitment to maintain a safe environment for our University community," says Antonio Williams, MS, chief of police and assistant vice president of public safety.

"The UM shuttle demonstrates that we have listened, understood, and responded to the needs of our students," says Lilly. "It represents our commitment to the safety and security of our University community. And while it meets an immediate need, it is also a symbol of our pledge to environmental sustainability, our commitment to carbon neutrality, and our desire to reduce reliance on single-occupancy vehicles."

Chinese Visitors The University of Maryland School of Medicine was pleased to host a delegation from China Guangzhou Medical University on July 26, 2012. The visit was part of a two-week training program coordinated by the Maryland China Initiative at the University of Maryland, College Park. The group attended lectures on higher education and health care administration. During a tour of the University of Maryland Medical Center, the delegation was greeted by Brian Browne, MD, chair of Emergency Medicine. The group also met with Nancy Lowitt, MD (pictured), associate dean for Professional Development, before visiting the Institute for Human Virology.

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