



SOM *news*

Point of PRIDE



Alice S. Woolley '30

A women's rights activist and prominent army physician, was elected president of the American Women's Medical Association. Dr. Woolley was active in promoting women physicians in the Armed Forces, and she addressed the Congress on a bill to do so. The Poughkeepsie, New York, native was awarded the Medaille de la Reconnaissance Francaise by the French government for two years of service during World War I.



DEAN'S MESSAGE

As we find ourselves in the season of spring, we are contrastingly confronted with the stark realities brought by COVID-19. This is an unprecedented season for us, but not unsurmountable. While the medical community has been ever aware of the lingering threat of a life-altering virus, none of us could have predicted the timing of the sudden upheaval of our daily lives. The novel coronavirus certainly presents many challenges, but we must acknowledge and appreciate the strengths among us that it brings to light. I have never been more proud of the acute talent, readiness, and willingness of the clinicians and scientists in our academic medical community. They are taking the lead during this season of turmoil as they respond to both the need for a greater understanding of COVID-19, as well as the need for continued clinical care.

Amidst the disruption to health, jobs, and personal lives, I wish to encourage our community to continue with as much normalcy as possible, with the very necessary accommodation for social distancing. As we telework, work with limited resources, and limit our in-person-interactions, we should continue to be productive, show appreciation, and find joy wherever possible.

The month of March brings an excellent opportunity to pay homage to a significant population. **Women's History Month** prompts us to reflect on the many contributions of women to history and society. This year's Women's History Month theme of "Valiant Women of the Vote" celebrates the brave women who fought for something they strongly believed in – suffrage rights. As our country's next presidential election approaches in November, we must remember to use our voices to the best of our abilities. As citizens of the United States of America and constituents of the University of Maryland School of Medicine, we encounter many avenues in which to do so. Aside from casting a ballot, our voices can serve as critical tools in even the most informal of settings. At the School of Medicine, we have the privilege of unique access to the understanding of COVID-19's very real gravity. With this understanding, our response is appropriately serious and effective. While many other groups of Americans play catchup to understanding

What's on My Mind...



...is the extraordinary gratitude I feel for the truly exceptional members of our academic medical community who are ready and willing to answer the "call to duty."

the reality of the situation and how their responses must transition, we can play a critical role with our voices as public health advocates. Do not be afraid to kindly speak up when you witness an opportunity for greater precautions to be taken. Your awareness and local leadership may protect the health of your community at home.

Today, our very own **Dr. Kathleen Neuzil**, the Myron M. Levine, MD Professor in Vaccinology and Director of the Center for Vaccine Development and Global Health, is making history on behalf of women everywhere. As she leads the SOM effort for a COVID-19 vaccine, she and her team maintain several other critical initiatives that must be sustained. They work tirelessly on all fronts, so that we may experience as little disruption to our health and quality of lives as possible.

I hope that everyone is finding novel ways to stay happy, healthy and productive. I look forward to our return to campus so that we may work and celebrate in person with each other once again. Thank you for your continued dedication, diligence, and patience. Stay safe.

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*

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.

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Harvard Dean Dr. George Daley Receives Samuelson Award

Inaugural UMSOM Award & Lecture Honors Leaders in Stem Cell Research

On January 29, George Q. Daley, MD, PHD, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at Harvard Medical School, was presented with the Inaugural Herman and Walter Samuelson Foundation Award and Lecture in Stem Cell Research. The new UMSOM award, which honors pioneers and innovators in the field of stem cell research, was established through a generous gift from the Samuelson Foundation, a Baltimore-based charity that has contributed significantly to medical and educational institutions in the area.

(Continued on page 8)

Faculty Fundraising Philanthropy

UMSOM Faculty Step Up to Help Raise Over \$3.5 Million in Gifts

With the appointment in January of **Steven R. Gambert, MD, AGSF, MACP**, UMSOM Professor of Medicine and Division Head for Gerontology and Geriatric Medicine, as the school's first Medical Director of Development, a new collaboration between that department and UMSOM faculty is already gaining momentum, based on a clear understanding of how philanthropy plays a key role in the school's overall vision of reaching its institutional goals.

In the first few weeks of 2020, UMSOM faculty members already achieving success in attracting more than \$3.5 million in recent gifts from generous donors, supported by the schools' Office of Development.

\$2.5 M pledge from Howard S. Brown

To establish the Thomas M. Scalea, MD Distinguished Professorship in Trauma Surgery



Thomas M. Scalea, MD

The Honorable Francis X. Kelly Distinguished Professor in Trauma Surgery; Director, Program in Trauma; Physician-in-Chief, R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center

\$500 K pledge from Susan and William Brody

To establish the Cardiovascular Medicine 3D Printing Program Fund Provides support to purchase a 3D Printer, printing materials, and associated expenses



Stacy D. Fisher, MD

Associate Professor, Department of Medicine; Director, Women's and Complex Heart Diseases

\$250 K pledge from Pivot Health Solutions

To establish the Physical Rehabilitation Science PhD Education Endowment Provides funding for students pursuing PhD degrees in Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science



Victoria G. Marchese, PhD, PT

Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science

\$100 K grant from The Kahlert Foundation, Inc. and Greg and Roberta Kahlert

New grant to obtain preliminary, pre-clinical data to determine whether the fast-acting anti-depressant compound, NCGC-43, may also be useful in the treatment of alcoholism



Scott M. Thompson, PhD
Professor and Chair,
Department of Physiology

\$100 K gift from Sally H. Brown

To support the William E. and Sally H. Brown Parkinson's and Movement Disorders Endowment
Provides support for research and clinical care related to Parkinson's disease and movement disorders



Stephen G. Reich, MD
Frederick Henry Prince
Distinguished Professor in
Neurology,
Department of Neurology

100 K pledge from Maurice N. Reid, MD '99

To support The Maurice Reid, M.D. Classroom Fund
For the renovation and maintenance of classrooms that will promote team-based learning



Donna L. Parker, MD
Associate Professor, Department
of Medicine; Associate Dean for
Student Affairs;
Senior Associate Dean for
Undergraduate Medical Education

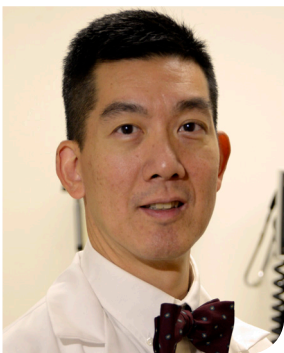


To learn more about this initiative, please call the
University of Maryland School of Medicine
Office of Development at 410-706-8503.

On the Front Lines

UMSOM Experts Confront the Coronavirus

It's been only 11 short weeks since the first case of Coronavirus in the U.S. was confirmed in Washington State. But even in those early days of the current pandemic, top experts at the University of Maryland School of Medicine were mobilizing on both the scientific and clinical fronts to combat this highly contagious virus and its deadly effects. Over the months of February and March, the UMSOM's physicians and scientists have been playing active, high-profile roles in preparedness planning for the growing outbreak while studying the virus and testing potential vaccines and other therapies.



Wilbur Chen, MD

Wilbur Chen, MD, Associate Professor of Medicine and an adult infectious disease specialist and **David Marcozzi, MD, MHS-CL, FACEP**, Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine and Head of the Incident Command for the University of Maryland Medical System, are both serving on Governor Larry Hogan's COVID-19 response taskforce. This special panel is advising the Governor and top administration officials on important health and emergency management decisions as the pandemic continues to evolve.

Dr. Chen is an adult infectious disease physician-scientist with a specific interest in clinical vaccinology. He is Chief of the Adult Clinical Studies section

within the Center for Vaccine Development and Global Health and Director of the UMB Travel Medicine Practice. Dr. Marcozzi also is the Assistant Chief Medical Officer for Acute Care at the University of Maryland Medical Center and is the Deputy Medical Director for Mobile Integrated Healthcare for the Baltimore City Fire Department. Previously, he served in the federal government as a senior leader and subject matter expert on health delivery, emergency care, and emergency preparedness.



David Marcozzi, MD, MHS-CL, FACEP

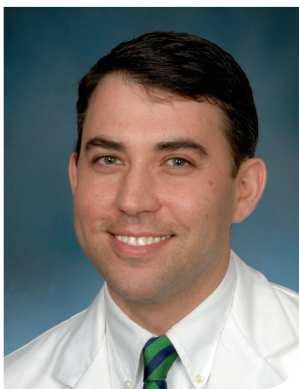


James Campbell, MD, UMSOM Professor of Pediatrics and an infectious disease specialist, has spearheaded the creation and launch of the first online resource on COVID-19 for pediatric healthcare providers and practices, as well as for parents and children. The **Kids & COVID-19** site (<https://www.medschool.umaryland.edu/CVD/Kids--COVID-19/>) includes resources for pediatric practices and hospitals, including protocols, guidance, and clinical resources

for COVID-19. As importantly, **Kids & COVID-19** is intended as a resource for families, providing educational videos for children about COVID-19 and important tips for talking to children about this disease. Dr. Campbell is a recognized expert on pediatric issues relating to COVID-19 and other respiratory infections.

of COVID-19

Pandemic in Maryland and Beyond



Matt Frieman, PhD, Professor of Microbiology and Immunology at UMSOM, continues his important work on testing potential new therapies to treat COVID-19. In his basic research, Dr. Frieman seeks to create therapeutic interventions for viruses of public health concern by developing a detailed understanding of how those viruses interact with a host. He and his

colleagues recently published a paper in the journal *Nature Nanotechnology* that provides insights from the field of nanomedicine into the efficacy of chloroquine to treat the COVID-19. He also continues to be quoted extensively in the media on his coronavirus expertise and his work studying this novel coronavirus.



In late February, **Samba Sow, MD, MSc, FASTMH**, Director General of the Center for Vaccine Development in Mali (CVD-Mali), and Adjunct Professor of Medicine at the UMSOM, was appointed by the World Health Organization (WHO) to serve as a special envoy on issues related to coronavirus COVID-19. Dr. Sow was named by WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, PhD, MSc, as one of six special envoys on

COVID-19, to provide strategic advice and high-level political advocacy and engagement in different parts of the world, including Africa. The appointment comes as WHO has identified several priority countries in Africa at risk because of their direct links to China or their high volume of travel with China.



Kathleen Neuzil, MD, MPH, FIDSA

Kathleen Neuzil, MD, MPH, FIDSA, the Myron M. Levine, MD Distinguished Professor in Vaccinology, and Director, Center for Vaccine Development and Global Health (CVD), is part of a leadership team working with the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), to test vaccines and therapies at sites across the country. CVD is part of NIAID's Vaccine and Treatment Evaluation Unit Network, one of nine sites researching vaccines and other therapies for COVID-19. The first Phase 1 trial of a vaccine recently began in Seattle. As a world-renowned vaccinologist and infectious disease specialist in the areas of vaccine development and policy, Dr. Neuzil continues to work with infectious disease experts on the launch of additional trials.

In addition, CVD's **Karen Kotloff, MD**, Professor of Pediatrics and Head of the Pediatric Infectious Disease Division, and **Justin Ortiz, MD**, Associate Professor of Medicine are the principal investigators on a trial to study the efficacy of an antiviral therapy for treating COVID-19. A pediatric infectious disease specialist, Dr. Kotloff focuses on the epidemiology of infectious diseases and their prevention with the use of vaccines in both the U.S. and in developing countries, while Dr. Ortiz, a respiratory virus expert who studies pneumonia epidemiology, prevention, and treatment, was previously was a Medical Officer at the World Health Organization Immunization Department where he led programs related to adult and maternal immunization.



Karen Kotloff, MD



Justin Ortiz, MD

Stay up to date on the efforts of UMSOM's physicians and scientists to fight the Coronavirus by visiting medschool.umaryland.edu/news/coronavirus/.

This site is updated daily.

RENEE ROYAK-SCHALER, PHD, MEd: DEVOTED TO ENDING DISPARITIES IN CANCER CARE

Another Remarkable Woman in UMSOM Medicine and Science



Renee Royak-Schaler PhD, MEd

Last September 25, 2019, a capacity crowd of UMSOM faculty, staff, students and friends gathered in the Bressler Research Building Lobby for the unveiling of the new Historic Women in UM Medicine & Science display, as well as the redesigned Wall of UMSOM Deans. *“We pay tribute to our history as a medical school by celebrating the remarkable achievements of both our women and men who preceded us,”* said Dean Reece in his opening remarks. *“Because of them, we have so much to celebrate today, and even more in the future.”*

Among the women honored on the display is Renee Royak-Schaler PhD, MEd, Dr. Royak-Schaler was an Associate Professor of Epidemiology and Public Health at the UMSOM, as well as the Director of the school’s Masters in Public Health program. As a faculty member, she was instrumental in the creation of her department’s MPH and dual-degree programs, and actively taught students in the MPH, MS and PhD Programs.

Dr. Royak-Schaler was also a scholar and behavioral scientist whose multi-disciplinary program of research focused on disparities of cancer care, including psychosocial and behavioral factors associated with early

Dedicated by Congress in 1987, Women’s History Month occurs every April and celebrates the often-overlooked contributions of American women to United States history. Here at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, Women in Medicine and Science (WIMS) seeks to bring together women across the School of Medicine to support their professional and academic success. To learn more, visit <https://www.medschool.umaryland.edu/WIMS/>.

detection, prevention, and survivorship care practices of minority populations.

Following Dr. Royak-Schaler’s sudden passing in May 2011, her family established the Renée Royak-Schaler, PhD, MEd, Memorial Endowment Award to honor her memory and legacy in the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health. The fund provides merit-based awards to students in the MPH, MS, or PhD programs in the department. This prestigious award recognizes excellence in the student’s academic work and in research and/or service in areas deeply important to Dr. Royak-Schaler: health disparities, health behavior, women’s health, cancer prevention,

and/or community engagement and participation. Work in these areas can include an ongoing or completed capstone project, volunteer work, a presentation or publication, and/or a project related to the student’s program or research.

In addition, the Annual Renée Royak-Schaler Lecture in Health Equity was underwritten through a generous gift from Dr. Royak-Schaler’s family. The aim of the lecture series is to bring the best scholars and policy makers in the country to the university to present their work on pressing issues in health disparities, and to bring much-needed visibility to this important topic.



The renovated Bressler Research Building Lobby with the Historic Women in UM Medicine & Science display and the Wall of UMSOM Deans



Standing above the image of Dr. Royak-Schaler at its unveiling are (L to R) UMSOM Dean E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA; Magda Schaler-Haynes, JD, MPH; and Jay S. Magaziner, PhD, MSHyg, Professor and Chair of the Department of Epidemiology & Public Health. Ms. Schaler-Haynes is the daughter of the late Dr. Royak-Schaler and spoke at the unveiling event about her mother’s accomplishments.

13th Annual “Celebrating Diversity” Dinner Supports Student Scholarships

UMSOM Award Recipients Honored for Promoting Health Equity and Career Advancement for Underrepresented Groups

The University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMSOM) held its 13th annual “Celebrating Diversity” reception and dinner on Feb. 29, 2020 at the Renaissance Baltimore Harborplace Hotel. The event was attended by nearly 300 guests who gathered to honor diversity efforts at UMSOM, recognize those who have helped increase diversity in the field of medicine, and to raise support for an endowed scholarship in the name of Dean Emeritus Donald E. Wilson, MD, MACP, AGAF.

“Tonight, we reaffirm our commitment to the values of diversity, and we celebrate the successful strides and accomplishments that result from that commitment,” said UMSOM Dean E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA. *“The School of Medicine is strongly committed to the recruitment and retention of talented, culturally and ethnically diverse students, staff, trainees, and faculty.”*



L to R: Jay Magaziner, PhD, MSHyg, Erin Hager, PhD, and Dean Reece

Erin Hager, PhD, Associate Professor in the Departments of Pediatrics and Epidemiology & Public Health and Director of the Program in Health Equity and Population Health was presented the Dean’s Faculty Award for Diversity and Inclusion. For over a decade, Dr. Hager has focused her research on understanding ways to reduce health disparities for children and families in low-resource communities in Baltimore City and

throughout Maryland. She has received several local, state, and federal funds, including grants from the CDC, NIH, and USDA, to implement and evaluate strategies to prevent obesity among children in schools and communities. In 2010, Dr. Hager was appointed as the Director of the UMSOM’s Program in Health Equity and Population Health. The program builds on the collaborations among UMSOM researchers and promotes a focus on equity promotion and disparities reduction in new and ongoing research studies.

“Reducing health disparities and promoting health equality has always been at the root of what we do. I am honored to work with such dedicated colleagues and team members who are committed to serving Maryland’s most vulnerable,” said Dr. Hager in receiving the award, urging faculty and UMSOM leaders to continue to promote diversity and inclusion.

The Dean’s Alumni Award for Diversity and Inclusion went to **Senator Clarence K. Lam, MD, MPH**. Senator Lam was elected to Maryland 12th Legislative District in 2014. As a dedicated public servant, Senator Lam has a long record of supporting his community and constituents. He earned his medical degree from the University of Maryland in 2008 and completed a master’s degree in public health from the Johns Hopkins

Bloomberg School of Public Health. While attending medical school at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, Senator Lam was the student-body president from 2005-2006, where he represented over 6,000 graduate and professional-level students.

“I credit my experiences here, which have exposed me to communities and populations that I still talk about today,” said Senator Lam. *“This exposure was important because medicine is not only about clinical care, but about being able to put yourselves in other’s shoes.”*

During the 2019-2020 academic year, the School of Medicine awarded more than \$4 million in direct support to students. Of that total, almost \$2 million was awarded in the form of diversity scholarships to 72 medical students.

Jasmine Blake, MSPH, became the inaugural recipient of the Wilson Legacy Scholarship in 2016. *“Today, I stand on the cusp of becoming a doctor. A dream deferred by doubt, yet brought to fruition by the faith and generosity of those of you in this room,”* she said. Ms. Blake is set to graduate this May.

Grace Lee and Dominic Ventimiglia, both first-year medical students and 2019 Wilson Legacy Scholarship recipients, also thanked the audience and underscored the social importance of diversity and inclusion.

“Each of us deserves to be given equal opportunities that we need to thrive. I feel honored to have received this scholarship, and I am committed to providing opportunities for others in the future,” said Mr. Ventimiglia.

To contribute to the Dean Emeritus Donald E. Wilson Endowed Scholarship fund, please visit <http://medschool.umaryland.edu/development/> for more information.



Sandra Quezada, MD, MS, and Senator Lam



Jasmine Blake, MSPH



Dominic Ventimiglia

Dr. George Daley Receives Samuelson Award

Continued from page 1

As part of the award presentation, held in MSTF Leadership Hall, Dr. Daley, who is also the Caroline Shields Walker Professor of Medicine and Professor of Biological Chemistry and Molecular Pharmacology at Harvard, delivered a lecture tracking his personal history in stem cell research, entitled “Blood from a Petri Dish.”

Dr. Daley is an internationally recognized leader in stem cell science and cancer biology. His research focuses on the use of mouse and human disease models to identify mechanisms that underlie blood disorders and cancer. Dr. Daley’s lab aims to define fundamental principles of how stem cells contribute to tissue regeneration and repair and improve drug and transplantation therapies for patients with malignant and genetic bone marrow disease.

Beyond his research, he has been a principal figure in developing international guidelines for conducting stem cell research and for the clinical translation of stem cells.

“Dr. Daley’s research has significantly advanced the field and has been absolutely key in the use of the Nobel prize-winning induced pluripotent stem cells to cure genetic disease in mice, with obvious implications for humans,” said **Curt Civin, MD**, Professor of Pediatrics and Physiology and Director of the Center for Stem Cell Biology & Regenerative Medicine at UMSOM. **“In addition, He has been an international statesperson for stem cell research, an advocate for truth in this process by providing hope without undue hype.”** 🏛️



George Q. Daley, MD, PhD

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

Stay Informed...

On the Coronavirus Pandemic and its Impact on UMSOM

For daily situation updates, UMSOM community reports, UMB policy updates, and more related to the current Coronavirus pandemic, please visit the Coronavirus Update page on the UMSOM website. And for additional information, be sure to check your email for Dean Reece’s weekly Wednesday UMSOM update and his Friday video.

March 2020 Vol. 24 No. 3
SOMnews



655 West Baltimore Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201-1559

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

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