



SOMnews

Point of PRIDE



Melvin Sharoky, MD
UMSOM Class of 1976

Dr. Sharoky, former president and CEO of Somerset Pharmaceuticals, Inc., earned FDA approval for EMSAM (selegiline transdermal system), the first transdermal patch for the treatment of patients with major depressive disorder.

DEAN'S MESSAGE

With the holiday season behind us, we enjoyed an opportune time to reflect on all we are grateful for. The University of Maryland School of Medicine's productivity has remained high, even throughout the pandemic. We:

- Maintained an impressively consistent level of **research funding (\$555M in FY21)**, representing a **12 percent increase in NIH** funding;
- Rebounded our clinical practice volumes (**more than 1.5 million**) and overall clinical revenue (**more than \$350 million**) from the impact of COVID-19 in the prior fiscal year. Clinical staffing challenges are impacting scheduling and patient flow, especially in the inpatient setting, but we are working closely with our UMMC partners to plan for and address this impact;
- Began our second full year of the **Renaissance Curriculum**, having completed our inaugural year with great success and feedback;
- Remain a **highly attractive research-intensive medical school**, having received more than 6,000 very strong applications for 145 MD spots for the 2021-2022 academic year, and over 250 very impressive applications for the eight MD/PhD spots.

We have been able to maintain this level of excellence because of the role each member of our academic medical community has played in keeping each other safe, from our research scientists who contributed to making the vaccines possible, and our clinicians who have cared for those infected, to our COVID-19 Unified Command Team members.

As public recognition of our excellence, the School of Medicine swept the **University of Maryland, Baltimore Founders Week Awards** this year. We were represented in four out of the five categories with the following honors:

- Entrepreneur of the Year: **Vincent Njar, PhD**
- Public Servant of the Year: **Joshua M. Abzug, MD**
- Researcher of the Year: **Ronna P. Herzano, MD, PhD**
- Educators of the Year: Renaissance Curriculum Team, including **Philip Dittmar, MD; Olga Ioffe, MD; Constance Lacap, DO; Joseph Martinez, MD; Donna Parker, MD, FACP; Devang Patel, MD; Sandra Quezada, MD, MS; Norman Retener, MD; Nirav Shah, MD; and Kerri Thom, MD, MS**

What's on My Mind...



...are all the accomplishments and successes we are fortunate to celebrate as an academic medical community.

These individuals richly deserve the honor of being recognized among the entire University community, and I am exceptionally grateful for the honor they bring to the School of Medicine. While they are the ones who were publicly lauded, they serve as a representation of the merit throughout our entire academic medical community.

Our Transplantation Program had the opportunity to showcase its excellence in research in our first virtual Festival of Science, which was very successful with over 400 attendees and continuous engagement and dialogue among our Scientific Advisory Council, the presenters, and members of the audience. One significant benefit of hosting an event like this on a virtual platform includes the ability of our presenters and audience members to continue the conversation through the "Chat" and "Q&A" functions. Research insights were further analyzed and new collaborations were fostered. I want to thank everyone for tuning into my last Festival of Science as Dean. If you missed it, you can watch the recording on the event's webpage on our website.

While we have had much to celebrate, we still have much that gives us cause for caution. I hope that everyone was able to rest and reflect during the holiday break, while staying safe and healthy.

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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Prominent University of Maryland School of Medicine Faculty Members Recognized as 2021 Leaders in Health Care

Faculty leaders at the University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMSOM) have recently been recognized by two of the area's top-tier publications for their extraordinary work in health care over the past year.

Power 30 Health Care List

E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA, Dean of University of Maryland School



Mohan Suntha, MD, MBA

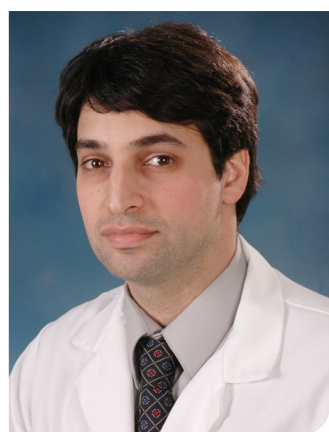
of Medicine (UMSOM) and **Mohan Suntha, MD, MBA**, President and CEO of University of Maryland Medical System (UMMS) and the Marlene and Stewart Greenebaum Professor of Radiation Oncology at UMSOM, are among 30 individuals recognized on The Maryland Daily Record's inaugural **Power 30 Health Care** list.

Continued on page 8

Disarming the HIV Virus

Research suggests neutralizing antibodies may lead to a cure for HIV Patients Research

One of the reasons that developing an HIV vaccine has been so difficult is that the body typically does not make potent enough antibodies able to prevent infection over an extended time period. Some of these HIV antibodies are called neutralizing antibodies with the ability to disable the virus leaving it no longer infectious to the body. Researchers found that over decades of having the virus in their system some people not on antiretroviral medications develop very potent neutralizing antibodies against HIV.



Mohammad Sajadi, MD

Mohammad Sajadi, MD, Professor of Medicine, Division of Clinical Care and Research, Institute of Human Virology, University of Maryland School of Medicine, has been studying these HIV neutralizing antibodies for more than a decade. His team and colleagues have isolated HIV antibodies from patient's blood samples from Baltimore that seem promising for developing therapies. He says these antibodies could either guide vaccine design or be used by themselves as a preventative or therapy to inactivate circulating HIV virus.

As there are dozens of pills and pharmaceutical treatments that work for treatment and prevention, why pursue more treatments or preventatives?

"The problem lies in that once people who have HIV stop taking their meds then the HIV replicates again, so medications can't cure the disease," said Dr. Sajadi. ***"There's a lot of data showing that people can have long-term complications from the virus and the meds, even if the virus is suppressed. Ultimately, we want to find a way to cure our patients. It's possible that these antibodies could be used in conjunction with many other approaches being tested to one day reach a real cure once and for all."***

As for prevention, two medications are already FDA-approved as a one or two pill a day regimen in the form of PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis).

"In the clinical trials, PrEP worked great. But in the real world, it is hard to stick to that regimen if you don't have HIV," said Dr. Sajadi. ***"People take it intermittently or stop taking it altogether. So, ideally a vaccine would be the most effective preventative."***

There are newer prevention medicines consisting of injections once a month or two. Although, this helps combat forgetfulness for taking a pill every day, getting people to commit to 6 to 12 more shots a year may still be a barrier. Some people don't like needles and others may not be able to visit their physician a dozen times a year.

"As for using antibodies in a simple vaccine, we don't know yet whether it's possible to teach the body to make these antibodies or whether it requires decades to make like it did in our Baltimore patient from where it came," he said.

Dr. Sajadi works with collaborators at Scripps Research, University of Maryland College Park, and Dr. Paolo Lusso from the National Institutes of Health's National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. Among their group, they have narrowed it down to two particularly potent families of antibodies with the most promising potential as a therapy — both of which came from a patient in Baltimore.

"The volunteer (N49) from whom these antibodies were isolated was very special," said Dr. Sajadi. ***"She really dedicated herself to the research and we developed a close relationship over the years. Unfortunately, she passed away early during the pandemic, but I know she would have been happy with the progress we have made. Her body had figured out a way to make antibodies that could potentially neutralize nearly all strains of HIV from around the world, and it was because of her selflessness that we were able to start and continue the work."***

"The antibodies we isolated from N49 are some of the best ones against HIV that have ever been isolated," said Dr. Sajadi. ***"They may be tied for the record in the number of strains of HIV they are effective against and are potent in that you need very little to show an effect."***

Unlike COVID-19 in which only a handful of strains exist (like the Delta variant), HIV has been circulating for many decades and there are now hundreds of strains out there. HIV is very "promiscuous" and if a person contracts different strains, they will commonly recombine together to form a new HIV strain.

The researchers are engineering their candidate antibodies to be more effective against even more HIV strains. They take the original antibody and tweak the sequence just a bit by altering one or two letters in the protein sequence of the antibody at a time. Then they grow the antibodies in human



cell lines and test the modified antibodies against HIV strains that the original antibody could not disable.

Ideally for a therapy, the antibody also needs to be easy to manufacture for ultimate use in large scale production. This means the antibody can hold up to changes in temperature, pH, and be easily dissolved in a solution. The team has a Bill and Melinda Gates grant to improve the manufacturability of their candidates.

The next steps will be testing in animals for safety and effectiveness. Then they will do human safety trials in healthy volunteers before they get to

the point of testing in people who have HIV, which could be several years or more down the road.

“People are investigating many different ways to find a true preventative or cure for HIV, but the solution that will deliver the ultimate answer remains to be seen,” said Dr. Sajadi. “I will continue working on the antibody component as my piece of the puzzle.” 🏛️

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Xin Ouyang, Narjes Shokatpour, Rahim Abbasi, PhD, Dr. Sajadi, Zahra Rikhtegaran Tehrani, PhD, and Maryam Karimi, MSc.



KIDNEY FUNCTION

ACHIEVING A NEW STANDARD FOR DIAGNOSIS

Under a new race-neutral assessment, thousands of African American persons living with chronic kidney disease could gain access to specialty treatment or transplantation for the first time.

University of Maryland Medicine, comprised of the **University of Maryland Medical System (UMMS)** and the **University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMSOM)** has announced that it will end the use of a long-standing clinical standard that factors a patient's race into the diagnosis of chronic kidney disease (CKD). The change could increase access to specialty care, including eligibility for kidney transplantation for thousands of Black people living with advanced kidney disease.

By late January, the System, including its flagship academic hospital, the **University of Maryland Medical Center (UMMC)**, will transition to a new standard of evaluating kidney function, eliminating whether a patient is "African American or non-African American" as a factor. The move follows

a review by University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMSOM) clinicians and scientists of recently released recommendations from professional societies.

By one estimate, approximately 720,000 African Americans might be treated earlier for kidney disease if race were removed from the calculations of kidney function. In Maryland, and the Mid-Atlantic region more broadly, thousands of people could be impacted by this transition to race-free eGFR.



Mohan Suntha, MD, MBA

"This is a significant development for University of Maryland Medicine and for academic medicine in general," said Mohan Suntha, MD, MBA, President and CEO of UMMS. "We are in a period of evolution toward truly understanding the scope and impact of race-based disparities in healthcare and taking steps to address inequities. I commend our physician leadership and University of Maryland School of Medicine partners who have taken swift and decisive action to operationalize this change across our System hospitals, programs and clinical partners. We are proud to be among the nation's first academic medical systems leading this imperative."

Since 1999, nephrologists across the country have used an equation to estimate glomerular filtration rate (eGFR), which reflects how well a person's kidneys filter waste. This equation relies on levels of creatinine — a byproduct of muscle and protein metabolism — from the blood. In addition to age and gender, the calculation takes into account whether a patient is "African American or non-African American" and assigns a multiplier based in part on a discredited notion that Black people tend to have more muscle mass than people of other races. This higher value often overestimates the health of Black patients' kidneys, pushing them above the threshold for diagnosis of advanced kidney disease, and therefore, leading to delayed referral for specialty care, or even disqualification for kidney transplant.

"We assembled an interdisciplinary ad hoc group of faculty at the University of Maryland School of Medicine many months ago to begin discussing a plan to replace race-based eGFR to assess kidney function,"



Sandra Quezada, MD, MS, AGAF

said Sandra Quezada, MD, MS, AGAF, UMSOM Associate Dean for Admissions, Assistant Dean for Faculty Diversity and Inclusion, and Associate Professor of Medicine in the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology. *"National guidelines were published in late September with recommendations on alternative equations to use, and we were able to present this to our University of Maryland Medical System leadership, which has responded positively and swiftly. We are so proud that the System is implementing this important change for the benefit of our patients."*


Following a report last year in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, the **National Kidney Foundation (NKF)** and the **American Society of Nephrology (ASN)** formed a joint task force to review the use of race in eGFR calculations. In September, the group endorsed a new calculation without the race coefficient. A committee of UM Medicine researchers, kidney specialists, clinical quality leaders and health equity champions then quickly convened to closely review the new guidance and drive forth a strong recommendation for change. This change was also enthusiastically endorsed by the Quality and Safety Committee of the UMMS Board.

"We are working expeditiously, but responsibly to take race out of the equation," said Stephen Seliger, MD, MS, Associate Professor in the Department of Medicine, Division of Nephrology, UMSOM, and an attending nephrologist at UMMC. "But, anytime we advance change, we need to make sure we are not introducing unintended consequences. We have engaged a multidisciplinary team to develop a roadmap that will ensure a strong degree of accuracy in our evaluation of chronic kidney disease and its severity for all patients. We also want to ensure that our systems, internal and external stakeholders are all aligned. While the shift in the numbers seems small, the implications are not trivial. The elimination of race-based adjustments will alter reality for many of our patients."



Stephen Seliger, MD, MS

Nationally, African American adults are three times more likely to suffer from kidney failure — making up roughly a third of U.S. dialysis patients, while comprising only 13% of the population. Delays in diagnosis exacerbate this gap — one reason UMMS experts say that while time is of the essence, getting this transition right is equally important.

UM Medicine acting to implement this change so quickly is a testament to the leadership roles the institution has in the academic medicine and health system arenas. 



Victoria G. Marchese, PT, PhD, Named UMSOM's Inaugural Jane Kroh Satterfield Endowed Professor in Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science

Members of the University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMSOM) community gathered online on Tuesday, November 2, 2021 for a virtual celebration to recognize one of its esteemed faculty members in the field of physical therapy and rehabilitation science, and to honor the legacy of one of UMSOM's beloved benefactors, the late **Jane Kroh Satterfield, PT '64**.

The celebration recognized **Victoria "Tori" Marchese, PT, PhD**, Associate Professor and Chair of UMSOM's Department of Physical Therapy & Rehabilitation Science (PTRS) as the inaugural **Jane Kroh Satterfield Endowed Professor in Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science**. Joining to witness the momentous occasion were family members, friends, and colleagues of both the recipient and benefactor.

The professorship was established by Jane Kroh Satterfield who passed away at the age of 78 in the spring of 2020. A native Baltimorean, Mrs. Satterfield received her BS in Physical Therapy from the UMSOM in 1964 and was a lifelong advocate for the field of pediatric physical therapy. Mrs. Satterfield also served on the Maryland Governor's Task Force and taught at both the UMSOM Department of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science (PTRS) and Johns Hopkins University.

During her lifetime, she established numerous funds at the School of Medicine, including the Pediatric Physical Therapy Award and initiated a challenge match to establish the PTRS Endowment Fund. Her generous gift to create this endowed professorship was made with the intention to reward and encourage faculty leaders to inspire future visionaries and innovators in physical therapy.

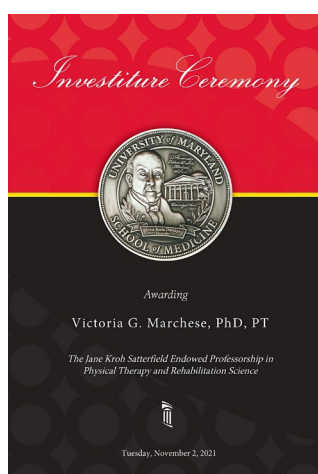
The investiture ceremony began with a warm introduction given by Mary Pooton, Associate Dean for Development who introduced **Anthony Lehman, MD, MSPH**, Professor of Psychiatry and Senior Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs at UMSOM, as master of ceremonies. Following his opening remarks, UMSOM Dean **E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA**, greeted the audience and shared a brief reflection on the friendship he shared with Mrs. Satterfield.

"Even though she is no longer with us, her advocacy and her passion for pediatric physical therapy lives on through her generous gift to our institution," said Dean Reece. **"Over the years, Jane and I became very good friends. She would assist the School of Medicine with reviews of the department. For the department chair, she was very pleased with my final selection of Dr. Marchese. I would use one word to describe Jane: selfless. She was selfless and extraordinarily giving."**

Following his remarks, Dean Reece presented the Satterfield family with a beautifully framed version of the investiture medal in appreciation of Mrs. Satterfield's generous contributions to the School of Medicine.



Jane Kroh Satterfield, PT '64



Kristopher Satterfield, son of Mrs. Satterfield, accepted the medal and spoke on behalf of his family. Echoing Dean Reece's sentiments, he recalled his mother's generous, warm-hearted spirit and spoke about her inquisitiveness that developed into a love of education.

"She made you feel like you were the center of the universe," said Mr. Satterfield. **"Mom was what we all call a 'lifelong learner' who took great pleasure in sharing what she learned and encouraged others to do the same."**

Heather Brossman, DHSC, DPT, MS, CCS, PCS, Assistant Director of Clinical Education, Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Sciences Department, Drexel University College of Nursing and Health Professions, praised Dr. Marchese's tireless dedication to her profession

"She is present and aware. She is such a strong advocate for families," said Dr. Brossman. **"I was then, and I still am now, in awe of all of her drive, her ambition, and her intelligence. But more so, I'm in awe of her earnestness and her ability to really hear you during those truly vulnerable moments."**

Mary Rogers, PhD, PT, FAPTA, FASB, FISB, Professor Emerita of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science at UMSOM, followed Dr. Brossman's remarks with a brief recollection of Dr. Marchese's journey to the School of Medicine in 2014. She emphasized how Dr. Marchese embodies the spirit of Jane Satterfield and how they both bonded over their love for helping children in need.

"She shares Jane's passion for children and pediatric physical therapy," said Dr. Rogers. **"As members of the search committee, both Jane and I were delighted when Dr. Marchese was selected as department chair. I am sure that Jane is equally pleased with the awarding of this endowed professorship to Dr. Victoria Marchese and is here with us in spirit to celebrate this wonderful investiture."**

A former patient of Dr. Marchese, **Andrew Haag**, along with his mother, **Jennifer Haag**, also spoke. Mr. Haag, who was a pediatric PT patient of Dr. Marchese nearly 25 years ago, suffered permanent injuries to his spinal cord and limbs after being involved in an automobile accident with his family. Sadly, the tragic incident claimed the lives of his father and older brother.

"There could not be a more deserving clinician, scholar, and most importantly overall amazing person to receive this recognition," Mr. Haag expressed in gratitude to Dr. Marchese. **"It was a traumatic time in my and my family's lives, but that is often when heroes arrive."**

Ms. Haag expressed similar feelings. **"We found hope and strength through many people. Tori was certainly one of those at the top of the list. Not only was Tori his pediatric physical therapist, but she was also his advocate in helping him adjust to his permanent injury"**.

Victoria Marchese was then presented with the Investiture Medal and expressed her gratitude and appreciation.

"Jane's dedication and generosity is giving me the ability through this professorship to lead PTRS, to continue to advance physical therapy clinical practice, education, and research," she said with a great sense of pride. **"I'm grateful for Jane and her family for their generosity. While Jane was alive, I said to her, 'I want to make you proud of the work that I do.' And now, even more with this appointment, I hope that I can carry on with Jane's vision and possibilities of the future for our profession."** 🏆

What's your goal?

A New Hub for Financial Wellness

UM School of Medicine's First Director of Student Financial Wellness will Lead a New Program to Help Students Navigate Financial Challenges

Donna L. Parker, MD, Senior Associate Dean for Undergraduate Medical Education, along with Kerri Thom, MD, MS, Associate Dean for Student Affairs at the University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMSOM), announced today that **Sofia Cascio, MBA**, has been named the school's first Director of Student Financial Wellness.



Donna Parker, MD, FACP

A seasoned financial planning professional, Cascio will build and manage the Medical School Scholarship & Financial Wellness Program. The program was established to act as a resource for medical students, and serve as a hub for financial aid and financial wellness services.

As Director, Cascio will oversee all aspects of student financial planning and debt counseling, establish short and long-term debt management plans, and develop training materials and seminars.

"From student loans to housing costs, the financial pressures associated with a career in medicine are greater than ever before," said Dr. Parker. **"Under Cascio's leadership, the UMSOM Scholarship & Financial Wellness Program will give students the knowledge and financial assistance they need to be successful through medical school and beyond."**



Sofia Cascio, MBA

The program will adopt and implement the FIRST Program (Financial Information, Resources, Services, and Tools). The FIRST program is a resource provided by the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), and all LCME-accredited

medical schools are strongly encouraged to utilize aspects of this model.

"More than 70 percent of medical students will graduate with debt," said Dr. Thom. **"Though the UMSOM Scholarship & Financial Wellness Program, students will learn how to better manage their expenses, repay their student loans, pay for housing and plan for the future."**




Kerri Thom, MD, MS

The FIRST program provides strategies to help medical students manage financial aid and their daily finances, as well as make sound financial decisions that will help after medical school. FIRST resources include videos, fact sheets, and helpful articles.

"Student loan debt can be a significant source of stress for medical students, which can affect their mental health and academic performance," said UMSOM Dean **E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA**. **"We must do everything we can to help students achieve financial literacy and give them the tools they need to achieve long-term financial wellness."**

Prior to coming to UMSOM, Cascio served as Associate Director of the Office of Financial Aid at the University of Baltimore. Cascio has also worked as a financial services supervisor and trainer at Walden University, and a financial aid customer service specialist at the Community College of Baltimore County.

Cascio earned an MBA from Walden University and a BS in Business Administration from the University of Baltimore. 

University of Maryland School of Medicine Dean Announces New Leadership Appointments in Office of Undergraduate Medical Education

Appointments Drive School's Commitment to Developing Next Generation of Highly-Trained Physicians

University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMSOM) Vice Dean for Academic Affairs, **James B. Kaper, PhD**, along with UMSOM **Dean E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA**, have announced a series of leadership promotions in the Office of Undergraduate Medical Education. The new appointments come as the Office continues to move UMSOM forward across all aspects of its education mission — including the development and implementation of the new Renaissance Curriculum — despite the significant challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

New appointments within Student Research and Undergraduate Medical Education include the following individuals who have demonstrated exemplary senior management leadership: **Miriam K. Laufer, MD, MPH**, Professor of Pediatrics, Medicine, and Epidemiology & Public Health, and Director of the Office of Student Research, has been promoted to **Associate Dean of Student Research & Education**; **Gregory B. Carey, PhD**, Associate Professor of Microbiology and Immunology, and Executive Director of Student Research and Community Outreach, has been promoted to **Assistant Dean of Research & Education**; **Donald R. (Rick) Matteson, PhD**, Associate Professor of Physiology, and Executive Director of Student Research Education & Dual Degree Programs, has been appointed to **Assistant Dean of Student Research Education & Dual Degree Programs**. Additionally, **Kevin Brown, BS, MA**, Executive Director of the Office of Medical Education & the Office of Student Affairs, has been promoted to **Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Medical Education Operations**.

“The School of Medicine is very fortunate to have such talented and accomplished leaders for these critical SOM missions,” said Dr. Kaper. *“They are all richly deserving of these promotions.”*

As **Associate Dean of Student Research & Education**, **Dr. Laufer** will be responsible for supporting and promoting all aspects of didactic and hands-on experiential research training for all UMSOM MD Degree students. Alongside Dr. Carey and Dr. Matteson, she continues to expand and enhance the opportunities for students to gain research experience and training throughout their medical school career. She will also support faculty who mentor medical students in research. She will continue to serve as a Professor in the Departments of Pediatrics and lead the malaria research program at the Center for Vaccine Development and Global Health (CVD).

Dr. Carey has been appointed **Assistant Dean of Student Research & Education**. Since joining UMSOM in 2004, he has played an instrumental role in developing student research programs for MD Degree students and mentoring programs for undergraduate and post-baccalaureate students rising to medical and graduate school. He has played a key role in attracting, developing, and showcasing talent diversity in and through these programs. In this new capacity, Dr. Carey will be fully engaged in all aspects of the Office of Student Research including all research education and research enrichment programming for UMSOM MD Degree students.

Moreover, as a lead faculty facilitator of the multi-program UMSOM Summer Research Forum and of Medical Student Research Day, an annual event spotlighting outstanding medical student research accomplishments, Dr. Carey will continue to be instrumental in developing a wide selection of research opportunities and programs that enhance research education and showcase student research excellence. He will continue as an Associate Professor in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology.

Dr. Carey has served on national committees and networks dedicated to building interest in science, medicine, and research



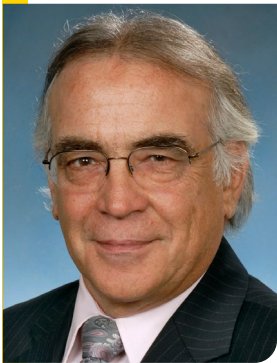
James B. Kaper, PhD



Miriam K. Laufer, MD, MPH



Gregory B. Carey, PhD



Donald R. Matteson, PhD



Kevin Brown, BS, MA

among populations traditionally underrepresented in these fields. As an expert in the management of funded mentored research education programming and workforce development and diversification related to STEM, Carey helps to foster a collaborative relationship between the scientific and medical communities and the School of Medicine. His outreach activities include research, service-learning projects, and presentations on topics related to STEM careers and the role of research in improving and protecting the health of the community.

Dr. Matteson has been appointed **Assistant Dean of Student Research Education & Dual Degree Programs**. In this expanded role, Matteson will lead all aspects of the Office of Student Research and oversee administration of UMSOM’s MD/Masters Dual-Degree programs.

His current responsibilities include developing student research components of the new Renaissance Curriculum. Previously, he had spearheaded the Foundations of Research and Critical Thinking (FRCT) course, an innovative program that received national attention. The course is designed to provide MD Degree students with the essential educational and practical tools needed to pursue a highly successful and productive career in clinical or academic medicine. The goals of FRCT are to foster critical thinking and enhance intellectual inquisitiveness in UMSOM students who aspire to have careers as clinician educators, clinician scientists and physician investigators. As the Director of Dual-Degree Programs, Matteson oversees and directs all of the joint MD and Masters Degree programs in the School of Medicine. He serves as the Physiology content lead for the new curriculum and course director for three Graduate Program In Life Sciences (GPILS) courses. He will continue to serve as an Associate Professor in the Department of Physiology.

Mr. Brown has been appointed **Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Medical Education Operations**. For more than a decade, Mr. Brown has been instrumental in supporting the educational program of the School of Medicine by providing technological expertise, education innovation, electronic assessment and course evaluation management, and research. He is responsible for the development and management of MedScope, the curriculum and student management system, as well as leads efforts to design digital curriculum modules for students.

In his new role, Mr. Brown will work in close collaboration with the Senior Associate Dean for Undergraduate Medical Education to develop strategic operational, financial, and administrative goals across all undergraduate medical education units. His priorities will be managing and supervising staff members as well as overseeing the full range of administrative functions that support the overall mission of the undergraduate educational program.

Donna Parker, MD, FACP, who is the Senior Associate Dean for Undergraduate Medical Education at UMSOM, commented: *“These four members of our undergraduate medical education team have consistently demonstrated their commitment to educating our next generation of physicians with their innovation, teamwork and resolve. Their promotions will continue to move the School of Medicine forward as a leader in medical education.”* 🏛️



Donna Parker, MD, FACP

UMSOM Faculty Members Recognized as 2021 Leaders in Health Care

Continued from page 1

As part of a series throughout 2021, the honor praises the most prominent figures in law, higher education, manufacturing, and other fields.

In addition, **William F. Regine, MD, FACR, FACRO**, UMSOM Radiation Oncology Department Chair, along with **Bruce E. Jarrell, MD, FACS**, President of the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) and Professor in the Department of Surgery at UMSOM, were among the list of honorees.

40 Under 40 List

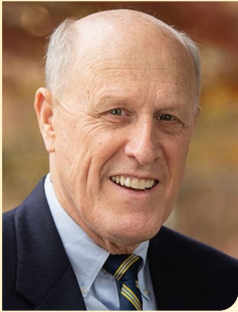


Parikshit Moitra, PhD

Parikshit Moitra, PhD, Research Associate in the Department of Pediatrics at UMSOM, was recognized by the Baltimore Business Journal as one of last year’s **40 Under 40** honorees. Dr. Moitra has been praised for his pioneering work in developing innovative techniques for Covid-19 rapid testing.



William F. Regine, MD, FACR, FACRO



Bruce E. Jarrell, MD, FACS

Leaders in Health Care 2021

Donna L. Parker, MD, FACP, Senior Associate Dean for Undergraduate Medical Education at UMSOM, was honored by the Baltimore Business Journal as one of 11 **Leaders in Health Care 2021**. The award recognizes leaders who are changing health care in the greater Baltimore region.

During Dr. Parker’s recent acceptance of the award, she emphasized the importance of “teamwork” throughout her career.

“I am incredibly honored to be recognized by the BBJ for my contributions to health education. The importance of our work to develop and support the next generation of physicians has never been clearer than during the past nearly two years of the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Dr. Parker. *“The support and teamwork of many colleagues at the School of Medicine and on our UMB campus made these successes possible.”*



Donna L. Parker, MD, FACP



Help Us Fulfill UMSOM’s Promise of Diversity and Inclusion

Will you open the door to the University of Maryland School of Medicine for the best and brightest medical students from underrepresented communities? By securely donating [here](#) to the **Dean Emeritus Donald E. Wilson Endowed Scholarship**, you ensure that future generations of UMSOM graduates reflect the diverse world in which we live. You also may mail your donation directly to the **UMSOM Office of Development** with a check made out to **UMBF, Inc./Wilson Scholarship** and send to:

University of Maryland, Baltimore
Office of Philanthropy Operations
220 N. Arch Street, 13th Floor
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Thank you for your gift!

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