



## DEAN'S MESSAGE: What's On My Mind

**What's on my mind this month are the choices that our medical, graduate and allied health students make about their lives and their careers at this point in the year.**

On March 15, we celebrated Match Day, the day when all fourth-year medical students across the United States discover where they will be doing their residencies. It is an auspicious occasion and marks a turning point in their training. This year, our students matched to some of the most competitive areas, including orthopedic surgery and radiology, and entered residency programs in emergency, internal and family medicine, as well as pediatrics, psychiatry and obstetrics and gynecology. While many of the School of Medicine's fourth-year students remain in Maryland, some at the University of Maryland Medical Center, others have matched to Duke, Harvard, University of Pennsylvania, University of California San Francisco, and the Mayo Clinic, to name a few. I am always proud to see our young students embark on their careers, and am pleased that the tradition of the Match Day ceremony continues as one of camaraderie, with classmates celebrating each other's success.

This point in the year also marks the time when many of our second-year graduate students in basic science programs take their qualifying examinations. Passing these examinations signifies the completion of the didactic portion of their training. Students then select their mentors from the School of Medicine faculty. Deciding which faculty member to work with to complete their thesis training is vital to a young research scientist, because the graduate student-thesis advisor relationship is such a formative one. Students will spend some of the most intense months of their career training with their graduate research team, working on projects that not only impact the laboratory's mission but lay the groundwork for their dissertations. The success of our students' laboratory experience is exemplified by the fact that, last year, our graduate students published 167 publications and were first author on 60. I am confident that the productive synergy between our students and their mentors will continue as the recently matriculated students enter their thesis laboratories.

Many senior students across all our programs are anticipating commencement next month. From the supportive environment of the School of Medicine, our young graduates will venture out into the workforce. Our students have an impeccable track record in the practices and medical centers they enter, careers they select, and organizations that hire them, and the postgraduate fellowships they earn, and I expect no less from the class of 2013. However, our students also face some very

unique choices in terms of where they go and what they do after earning their degrees.

You already should have received the print copy of the 2012 State of the School Address, which we purposefully titled "Forging Ahead: Defining New Pathways in Challenging Times." There is no more challenging time in our recent history than these last months. The passing of the Affordable Care Act will allow more people than ever to receive health insurance coverage, creating greater patient need for primary care and specialty physicians. However, the Association of American Medical Colleges estimates that by 2020 the nation will face a shortage of more than 90,000 healthcare professionals, despite the expanded patient populations. Last month, we went over the fiscal cliff, and the National Institutes of Health incurred a net loss of approximately \$1.5 billion to its

budget, which will negatively impact our graduates and young investigators in the research fields. Across-the-board federal spending cuts also mean a reduction in the number of new clinical trials that open, a lowered reimbursement rate from Medicare and Medicaid, and a delay in funding that could shut down entire research laboratories.

The School of Medicine is fortunate to have leaders who refuse to back down when faced with difficult situations such as those that have been placed in our path ahead. We remain undaunted in our journey forward and have made many important choices to position ourselves

to continue advancing where many could be stymied. For example, we are applying for more training grants from both governmental and nongovernmental sources and encouraging additional philanthropic support to help diversify our funding streams. We also are working to ensure that our ongoing research is performing to the highest standards possible, with the knowledge that federal funding will not be completely shut down and, where support is available, we should be among the best candidates to receive it.

Although the School of Medicine is working diligently to expand our programs, adjust to meet the ever-changing workforce environment, and plan for the uncertain times ahead, I also have every confidence that our students will choose to continue to work with us to enrich the medical enterprise.

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



Match Day in Davidge Hall



"THE SUCCESS OF OUR STUDENTS' LABORATORY EXPERIENCE IS EXEMPLIFIED BY THE FACT THAT, LAST YEAR, OUR GRADUATE STUDENTS PUBLISHED 167 PUBLICATIONS AND WERE FIRST AUTHOR ON 60."



Anca Safta, MD

Steven J. Czinn, MD, Professor and Chair, Department of Pediatrics, announced on February 26 that the University of Maryland Center for Celiac Research has appointed Anca Safta, MD, Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics, as Interim Director of the Center's clinical celiac program.

The Center is renowned for its ground-breaking research into celiac disease, including developing a diagnostic blood test and collaborating with the North American Society of Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition to publish guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of children with celiac disease.

The clinical program will also involve internationally recognized nutritionist Pam Cureton, as well as a staff of Board-certified physicians from the University of Maryland

School of Medicine. "It is important for the School of Medicine to see patients with celiac and gluten-related allergies and gluten sensitivity," said Dr. Czinn. "We are pleased that Dr. Safta and her team will be helping patients with this condition, as it continues as a growing national health issue."

Dr. Safta, who is widely published on the topic of pediatric celiac disease, received her medical degree from the Carol Davila School of Medicine and Pharmacology in Bucharest, Romania. She is a graduate of Wake Forest University and received her post-graduate education and training at Stanford University Medical Center and the University of Illinois at Chicago. She has been Assistant Professor at the University of Maryland School of Medicine since 2007.

## New Leadership for Clinical Celiac Program

BY KAREN ROBINSON

# INFLUENTIAL

## MARYLANDERS

### SOM Influential

### Marylanders

**T**he University of Maryland School of Medicine's Claire Fraser, PhD, Director of the Institute for Genome Sciences and a professor in the Departments of Medicine and Microbiology & Immunology, and Eduardo Rodriguez, MD, DDS, a Professor in the Department of Surgery, have both been named to *The Daily Record's* 2013 list of Influential Marylanders. University of Maryland School of Medicine Board of Visitors Member Emeritus Peter Angelos, LLB, was also named to the list in the philanthropy category.

"All three of these individuals are extraordinarily worthy of this recognition for the valuable role they play here at the School of Medicine," says 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, School of Medicine. "Dr. Fraser is an internationally-known leader in the field of genomics and has played a seminal role in the sequencing and analysis of human, animal, plant and microbial genomes to help us better understand the role that genes play in development, evolution, physiology and disease. Dr. Rodriguez led the team that performed the most-extensive full-face transplant to date last March, a perfect example of the life-changing options we can provide for our patients when we combine the expertise of our research and clinical teams to pursue procedures that would have seemed unfathomable not so long ago. Peter Angelos is a dedicated member of our Board of Visitors, elevating the School with his expertise and generosity. I congratulate all of them on being chosen for this honor."

Dr. Fraser has led the Institute for Genome Sciences since its creation in 2007. Her teams have sequenced the genomes of several microbial organisms, including important human and animal pathogens, helping to initiate the era of comparative genomics. Her current research interests are focused on the structure and function of the human gut micro biota. Dr. Fraser has more than 240 scientific publications, and has served on committees of the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy, and the National Institutes of Health. She is the recipient of numerous awards and honors, including the Promega Biotechnology Award and



the E.O. Lawrence Award from the Department of Energy; she is a Fellow of AAAS and the American Association of Microbiology; and she has been elected into the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame and the Institute of Medicine.

Dr. Rodriguez is a Diplomate of the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and Plastic Surgery. He is currently chief of the Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Division at the University of Maryland R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center and program director of the Craniofacial Fellowship at Shock Trauma and Johns Hopkins Hospital. His research interests include basic science, translational and clinical research projects focused on novel strategies of immunosuppression for composite facial allotransplantation. His clinical specialty is craniomaxillofacial reconstruction, reconstructive designer microsurgery and complex wound management. Dr. Rodriguez's team's successful full-face transplant at the University of Maryland Medical Center last March marked the first time in the world that a full-face transplant was performed by a team of plastic and reconstructive surgeons with specialized training and expertise in craniofacial surgery and reconstructive microsurgery.

*The Daily Record* also recognized Peter G. Angelos, LLB, president of the Law Offices of Peter G. Angelos, P.C., who serves on the Board of the University of Maryland Medical Systems Corporation and is an emeritus member of the Board of Visitors for the University of Maryland School of Medicine. Mr. Angelos, who received this award in the Philanthropy category, has also funded an endowed professorship at the School of Medicine. Stephen Bartlett, MD, the chair of the Department of Surgery, is the current Peter Angelos Distinguished Professor of Surgery.

*The Daily Record* created the Influential Marylanders awards in 2006 to honor individuals who have made truly significant contributions in their fields and who continue to be regarded as leaders in the State of Maryland. "We are proud to recognize Dr. Fraser, Dr. Rodriguez and Mr. Angelos as three of *The Daily Record's* Influential Marylanders," says Suzanne Fischer-Huettner, publisher of *The Daily Record*. "They have had a profound impact on both their profession and this state. We are pleased to honor them for the tremendous contributions they have made and undoubtedly will continue to make in the future."

► BY KAREN ROBINSON

## DR. BARNEY STERN

### Appointed Interim Chair of the Department of Neurology



University of Maryland School of Medicine Dean E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA, has appointed Barney J. Stern, MD, an accomplished expert in stroke and neurosarcoidosis with a distinguished career in clinical medicine and research, to serve as the Interim Chair of the Department of Neurology.

"The Department of Neurology is a national leader in the study and treatment of neurodegenerative disorders, including stroke, and of movement disorders and others," 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 University of Maryland School of Medicine. "Our faculty are conducting cutting-edge research on devastating neurological conditions, including multiple sclerosis, epilepsy, Alzheimer's disease and more. At the same time, the department's state-of-the-art clinical rehabilitation services are helping patients and their families to recover from these conditions and live fuller lives. Dr. Stern has long been a national leader in this department, and his experience and accomplishments make him the ideal physician-scientist to lead this department for the immediate future."

Dr. Stern replaces Professor and Chair William Weiner, MD, who passed away in December 2012. Dr. Weiner had been Chair of the Department of Neurology since 2001. "Dr. Weiner was an outstanding leader and a wonderful individual who inspired our faculty," says Dean Reece. "He built our department into a world-class center for movement disorders and other neurologic conditions. He will be greatly missed. We will begin in the near future a national search for a new, permanent Chair of Neurology. In the meantime, we are confident that Dr. Stern will be able to keep the department strong and moving forward."

Dr. Stern has served as Vice-Chair of the Department of Neurology since July 2012, and as a Professor of Neurology at the University of Maryland School of Medicine since 2004. Since 2009, he has had a secondary appointment as a Professor of Emergency Medicine as well. He is also Director of the Neurology residency program, the Comprehensive Stroke Center and inpatient Neurology services at the University of Maryland Medical Center.

"I am honored to have been selected by Dean Reece to lead the Department of Neurology during this difficult transition period," says Dr. Stern. "I will do my best to sustain and extend Dr. William Weiner's many accomplishments on behalf of the department and to honor his memory. The members of the department are an extraordinary group of individuals dedicated to our mission of providing optimal patient care, pursuing an aggressive research agenda, and being exemplary educators. It is a privilege to try to facilitate and enhance the multiple exciting activities that the department is engaged in."

Dr. Stern is a distinguished and highly regarded physician-scientist who has conducted extensive research into stroke and the neurological complications of neurosarcoidosis. He is the Principal Investigator of the Maryland Consortium of the National Institutes of Health-funded Neurological Emergency Treatment Trials Network. He has written extensively on stroke and neurosarcoidosis. Dr. Stern is also the founding Editor-in-Chief of *The Neurologist*, a review journal in its 18th year of publication. He is an author on 70 peer-reviewed publications, as well as several dozen review articles and book chapters.

In 1970, Dr. Stern earned his bachelor's of science degree, magna cum laude, in chemistry from the City College of the City University of New York. He earned his medical degree in 1974 from the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry. Dr. Stern completed two years of internal medicine training at the Boston City Hospital and a neurology residency at Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester from 1976 to 1979. Upon completion of his training, Dr. Stern joined The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine as a clinical instructor. He served as an Assistant Professor of Neurology at Johns Hopkins from 1980 to 1988, and Associate Professor from 1988 to 1994. In 1992, he joined the University of Maryland School of Medicine as a Clinical Associate Professor in the Department of Psychiatry. He left the University of Maryland and Johns Hopkins in 1994 to join Emory University in Atlanta, Ga., as a Professor of Neurology. In 2004, he rejoined the University of Maryland as Professor of Neurology, adding his secondary appointment in Emergency Medicine in 2009.

"Dr. Stern is a world-class physician-scientist and an outstanding leader," says Dean Reece. "I am confident that he is the right choice to keep our Department of Neurology robust and flourishing during our national search for a new Chair."

► BY JULIE WU

# Reimagining the Graduate Student Experience:

*How GPILS keeps up with the times*

Graduate programs in life sciences are under more pressure than ever to train young investigators in new and meaningful ways. Once they complete their degrees, graduates face stiff competition from veteran researchers for limited research funding and career opportunities in academia. The flat federal science budget and the dim prospects that this will improve anytime soon endangers the success of young biomedical researchers and threatens to wipe out a generation of new investigators. Graduate programs, therefore, must remain agile and forward-thinking in educating young scientists. The Graduate Program in Life Sciences (GPILS) at the University of Maryland School of Medicine (SOM) is working continuously to meet the diverse needs of its students.

As a relatively new program—it was formally established in 2005—GPILS embraces innovative methodologies for preparing its students for science careers. Led by Dudley Strickland, PhD, Associate Dean for Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, Director of the SOM's Center for Vascular and Inflammatory Diseases, and Professor in the Department of Surgery; Tom McHugh, Director and Academic Programs Administrator; and a number of highly dedicated faculty program directors and staff members, GPILS employs an integrated curriculum that draws faculty expertise from across SOM departments, programs and centers; the Schools of Dentistry, Pharmacy and Nursing; and, most recently, the Institute of Marine and Environmental Technology. Several courses are also exploring ways to incorporate lectures from fields outside traditional academic science, such as law.

The interdisciplinary and innovative nature of the GPILS curriculum is best exemplified by the eight-credit core course "Mechanisms in Biomedical Sciences: From Genes to Disease," required of all first-year students. This semester-long, 8-hours-a-day, 5-days-a-week course is taught by over 60 different faculty members. "The core course is like 'boot camp' for graduate students," says Dr. Strickland. "Although it provides students with a deep and broad foundation of knowledge necessary to succeed in their future research endeavors, it also separates those who are truly serious about going into science careers from those who are not."

Although most GPILS graduates will still pursue the traditional path of postdoctoral fellowship to an academic researcher, plans are in place to incorporate training in scientific journalism, technology-transfer and patent law, and training for various positions in government, biotechnology and the pharmaceutical industry into the program.

Consistent with its commitment to providing students with the most relevant, contemporary curriculum and information dissemination methods, GPILS is in the second and final year of a pilot program using iPads to link students and their lectures. GPILS faculty and students also recently tested ResponseWare, an e-clicker polling tool, which allows faculty to insert into a presentation multiple-choice questions that students respond to via their iPads. Results are then instantly displayed.

"Using this type of technology, students assess their understanding of key concepts in a risk-free manner and faculty receive real-time feedback, which provides the class an opportunity to revisit certain topics if necessary," says McHugh. "Though some were hesitant to use the tool at first, we have received very enthusiastic support from lecturers and students on this new approach to teaching and learning."

Currently, the greatest challenge to programs like GPILS is appropriately addressing the evolving training needs of biomedical graduate students. A 2012 advisory report from the Biomedical Research Workforce Working Group, convened by the National Institutes of Health, stated that, though the proportion of postdoctoral fellows moving into tenure-track faculty positions has declined from approximately 34 percent in 1993 to roughly 24 percent today, graduate training continues to focus on academic fields. The workgroup advised that graduate programs should offer a greater range of potential career options for students.

In response, GPILS leadership is infusing the program with new curricula, programs and support services to help position its students for success in today's ever-changing career environment. Although most GPILS graduates will still pursue the traditional path of postdoctoral fellowship to an academic researcher, plans are in place to incorporate training in scientific journalism, technology-transfer and patent law, and training for various positions in government, biotechnology and the pharmaceutical industry into the program.

"We are proud of the continued success of the program and of our graduate student-researchers who continue to make noteworthy contributions to the research enterprise," says Dr. Strickland. "These new educational offerings will help strengthen our ability to better train our students to significantly impact the progress of biomedicine beyond working in academia."



► CHRISTOPHER HARDWICK

## New Organizational Structure and Leadership Changes in Trauma

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND School of Medicine Dean E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA, and Thomas M. Scalea, MD, FACS, Francis X. Kelly Professor of Trauma Surgery and Director, Program in Trauma, have announced some administrative changes in the School of Medicine's Program in Trauma.

The program, which has grown and developed into the leading organization of its kind in the world under Dr. Scalea, is now organized into three divisions, with senior leadership guiding each of the three divisions: Trauma Services, Critical Care Service and Acute Care Surgery.

Dr. Scalea continues to oversee the entire clinical enterprise as the Director of the Program in Trauma and the Physician-in-Chief for the University of Maryland R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center. In addition, he will serve—in a senior strategic leadership capacity—as the System Director of Critical Care, focusing on regional, national and international activities for the center. The new administrative structure provides for effective management of the day-to-day operational and clinical workings of the Program at the Shock Trauma Center.

"Dr. Scalea has provided tremendous longstanding leadership to this program, particularly as it moves into its new facility and expands its global influence in the field of shock trauma," said Dean Reece. "We are excited to announce this new administrative structure, where Dr. Scalea has appointed three highly capable and dynamic physician leaders to implement the program at the highest levels of operational excellence."

Deborah M. Stein, MD, MPH, Associate Professor of Surgery, and formerly Chief of Critical Care and Medical Director of the Neurotrauma Intensive

Care Unit, has been appointed Chief of Trauma. In her new role, she will remain clinically active in both trauma and critical care, but will shift her administrative focus to the trauma service.

"Dr. Stein has done a remarkable job here in the Neurotrauma Intensive Care Unit, and we are confident that she will bring the same energy, organization, commitment and excellence to the trauma service in her new assignment," said Dr. Scalea. "We are very fortunate to have someone of her stature as a scholar and leader in the field to serve as Chief of Trauma."

James V. O'Connor, MD, FACS, Associate Professor of Surgery, one of the world's leading experts in vascular trauma—who is triple-boarded in general surgery, cardiac surgery and critical care—becomes the Chief of Trauma Critical Care. In his new role, Dr. O'Connor will be administratively responsible for the current Trauma Intensive Care Units.

"We were pleased to recruit Dr. O'Connor back to Baltimore and the University of Maryland School of Medicine earlier this year," said Dr. Scalea. "There are very few people as well trained as Dr. O'Connor. He is a world leader in clinical research and clinically relevant topics in thoracic and vascular trauma."

Jose J. Diaz, MD, Professor of Surgery, a leader in understanding complex clinical issues in general surgery and surgical infection,

[please turn to back page]



Thomas M. Scalea, MD, FACS



James V. O'Connor, MD, FACS



Deborah M. Stein, MD, MPH



Jose J. Diaz, MD

BY CAELIE HAINES

## The Class of 2013 Seek Their Perfect Match

Historic Davidge Hall was the site of Match Day festivities on Friday, March 15, when the School of Medicine's Class of 2013 discovered where they'll pursue the next step in their medical careers. Held at the same time in medical schools around the country, Match Day is when fourth-year medical students learn the residency program into which they have been accepted. The National Resident Matching Program (NRMP) conducts the Match nationwide, using a computer algorithm that aligns the preferences of applicants with the preferences of residency programs in order to fill thousands of training positions available at U.S. teaching hospitals.

Match Day can be a torturous process for students, as names are called randomly from a chest full of envelopes, so the future doctors don't know if they will be first or last to find out where they're headed. The last student to get his/her envelope wins the contents of a special bank—this year a green cauldron "Pot of Gold"—into which each student has put a monetary donation before accepting his/her Match letters. This money is traditionally used for an after-Match celebration.

This year, University of Maryland School of Medicine students matched at 67 different hospitals in 27 states.



## New Organizational Structure and Leadership Changes in Trauma

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continues as Chief of Acute Care Surgery. "Dr. Diaz is classically trained in general surgery and is nationally recognized in surgical management of rib fractures," said Dr. Scalea. "He is ideally suited for this role."

In addition to their administrative responsibilities, each faculty member is conducting research in the areas of trauma, critical-care and acute-care surgery that strengthens the program's capabilities and leadership position through the Shock, Trauma and Anesthesiology Research organized research center (STAR-ORC). The Center serves as a research umbrella for the Program in Trauma and the Department of Anesthesiology.

Dr. Scalea, who remains a prolific investigator, has published hundreds of papers and journal articles on brain injury, critical care, surgical outcomes, patient safety and injury prevention. Currently, Dr. Stein has several projects investigating traumatic brain and spinal cord injury. Dr. O'Connor has co-authored several studies with Dr. Scalea and is currently

finishing a large study on thoracic infections after trauma. Dr. Diaz is a national and internationally renowned investigator, having published extensively on the open abdomen and abdominal wall reconstruction. He is also a recognized national leader in acute-care surgery and is currently developing a regional registry in acute-care surgery.

# somnews

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