



DEAN'S MESSAGE: What's On My Mind



What's on my mind this month as we return to work after a restorative holiday break, is a renewed commitment to exponentially growing our academic enterprise across all our mission areas: research and discovery, clinical care, education and philanthropy.

I encourage you to draw upon your restored energy to fully engage in the **Shared Vision 2020** goals we have set for the School as a whole, and the accomplishments you as individuals intend to achieve this year. The naturally reflective time that occurs when the old year ends and new year begins also affords us the opportunity to rededicate our efforts to excellence—whether it be to our research, our patient care, our students or our community. Although working hard and putting in long hours will be necessary for us to overcome the challenges we met in 2013 and forge ahead with ambitious pursuits during 2014, I also want each of you to take periods to recharge and rejuvenate.

In the next year, we have a number of milestones to reach:

First is the arrival and installation of the cyclotron this month for the Maryland Proton Treatment Center (MPTC).

This complex piece of machinery is revolutionary in the treatment of cancer for many patients, delivering a more precise form of radiation therapy for certain types of tumors, while leaving surrounding tissue relatively unharmed.

As the first of this type of treatment center in the Baltimore-Washington, DC area, and only the 12th in the United States, the completion of the MPTC represents the School of Medicine's enduring commitment to improving the health and wellbeing of our patients.

Second is the continued progress in our mission to become known for exploring "Big Science" research questions using strategic disruptive innovations. A large part of that effort was initiated at the end of 2013, with the inaugural Festival of Science, part of the **Accelerating Innovation and Discovery in Medicine (ACCEL-Med) Initiative**. The Festival highlighted our incredible work in the areas of genomics, pharmacology and surgery, for an audience composed of keynote speaker and NIH Director Francis Collins, MD, PhD, and our distinguished Scientific Advisory Council. I also launched the first-ever Dean's Challenge Award, encouraging senior faculty investigators to collaborate on major scientific research projects, with the potential to position us for successful large federal funding.

Additionally, in the beginning months of 2014, we will truly begin to see the space that once held the former dental school transform into the foundation of the new School of Medicine Research Building, Health Sciences Facility (HSF) III. HSF III will one day house investigators conducting robust research to understand, solve and find cures for some of the most perplexing and complex diseases and conditions facing our citizens. Within the portals of HSF III, faculty members from the School of Medicine will have the ability to collaborate

with colleagues across Departments, Centers, Institutes, Programs and the Campus.

Third is the commencement of the new required research course, **Foundations of Research and Critical Thinking**, for all medical students. This course revitalizes our medical school curriculum, providing students with the analytical skills and exposure to biomedical research that will be vital to their success as academically-trained physicians in the future. The students' research projects form the core of the new course. At the end of last year, the lectures concluded and students selected their course mentors, so we expect that the students will begin their independent research projects in 2014.

Fourth is the ongoing progress of our capital Development campaign, **"Transforming Medicine Beyond Imagination."** To thrive during a challenging fiscal climate, we must have the resources available to support all our endeavors: from recruiting the best talent to serve in faculty and other leadership positions within

the School of Medicine, to supporting students and fellows just beginning their career journeys, to honoring our world-class researchers and clinicians with endowments, to funding the continuance of the superior work at our institution. Now, more than ever, we are turning to private support to further our mission, to ensure our success, and to guarantee that the legacy of academic excellence is carried through to the next generation. Therefore,

as we reach the mid-point of the final two years of the campaign, I strongly encourage you to rekindle your passion for philanthropic efforts on behalf of the continued stability and prosperity of the School.

Being passionate and driven about your work is an integral component to success, but so, too, is pausing periodically, allowing time to reassess your priorities, recommit to your goals and make necessary adjustments.

I am delighted to lead a team of "happy, healthy and productive people," because they are the ones who will make the most of their time, who will think strategically and boldly, who will be opportunistic, and who will help catapult us to great heights. I leave with a quote from businessman and founder of Success Motivation, Paul J. Meyer, who said, **"Productivity is never an accident. It is always the result of a commitment to excellence, intelligent planning, and focused effort."**

I am confident that we will surpass our goals for 2014, but recognize that we can only accomplish this by being a community of reinvigorated, recharged and rededicated academic scholars.

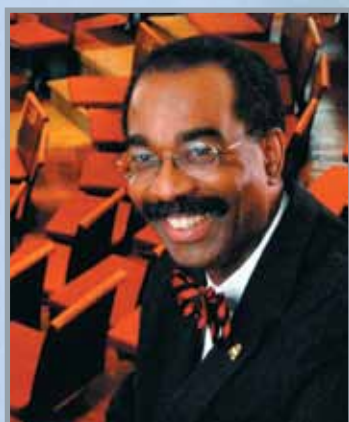
In the relentless pursuit of excellence, I am

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



“BEING PASSIONATE AND DRIVEN ABOUT YOUR WORK IS AN INTEGRAL COMPONENT TO SUCCESS, BUT SO, TOO, IS PAUSING PERIODICALLY, ALLOWING TIME TO REASSESS YOUR PRIORITIES, RECOMMIT TO YOUR GOALS AND MAKE NECESSARY ADJUSTMENTS.”



University of Maryland School of Medicine Holds *First*

SOM FESTIVAL *of*

NIH Director Francis Collins Gives Inaugural Keynote Address

Accelerating Innovation and Discovery in Medicine (ACCEL-Med), a major initiative of the University of Maryland School of Medicine, was launched on November 22, 2013. ACCEL-Med will increase the pace and scope of clinical and basic sciences research and will dramatically impact and improve human health and wellbeing. The initiative kicked off with the first SOM Festival of Science, a full day symposium highlighting the research being done by our faculty. Francis Collins, MD, PhD, Director of the National Institutes of Health, delivered the inaugural keynote address.

“Our nation has really benefited from being at the forefront of science, technology and innovation,” said Dr. Collins, who spoke about the current environment for biomedical research, including the need for advancing discovery through technology and translational sciences, the importance of continuous innovation, and the economic benefits of medical research. Speaking to an overflow crowd of physician-scientists and researchers, Dr. Collins added, “Do not feel shy about justifying why what you do is a really valuable investment for the American public.”

The Festival featured a series of 12 faculty presentations showcasing the groundbreaking basic, translational and clinical research being conducted at the University Maryland School of Medicine. “This ACCEL-Med initiative and today’s Festival of Science demonstrate that we are not just doing business as usual,” said E. Albert E. 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. “We are willing to evaluate and challenge our research portfolio as we boldly embrace the future.”

The first Festival of Science highlighted research conducted by the Institute for Genome Sciences (IGS), the Department of Pharmacology, and the Department of Surgery. Topics included gene sequencing, neuropharmacology, advances in transplant science, and the use of stem cells to treat serious heart problems in children. (See back page for presentation information.)

A cornerstone of the ACCEL-Med Initiative is an external Scientific Advisory Council (SAC) that consists of five internationally acclaimed biomedical researchers and physician-scientists, who provide critical advice on SOM’s research, programs and plans, as well as guidance and support for junior faculty presenters.

“We are delighted that a dais of preeminent scientists has agreed to be a part of the Scientific Advisory Council for the ACCEL-Med Initiative,” said Dean Reece at the Festival of Science event.

Members of the first Council included:

- **Rita Colwell, PhD:** Distinguished Professor at the University of Maryland College Park and the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health; Former Director, National Science Foundation; 2006 National Medal of Science recipient; Member, Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences
- **Carol Greider, PhD:** The Daniel Nathans Professor and Director, Department of Molecular Biology and Genetics, Institute of Basic Biomedical Sciences, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine; Awarded 2009 Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine; Member, Institute of Medicine of the



Dr. Collins as the inaugural keynote speaker



Pharmacology Panel: Yun Qiu, Thomas Abrams, and Margaret McCarthy



Dr. Collins and Dean Reece welcomed dignitaries at a dedication ceremony for our new CIBR core facilities.

National Academy of Sciences

- **Philip Needleman, PhD:** Former President/CEO, St. Louis Science Center; Former President, Searle R&D; Member, Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences
- **Ralph Snyderman, MD (Council Chair):** Chancellor Emeritus, Duke University & James B. Duke Professor of Medicine; Former President & CEO, Duke University Health System; Former Chair, Association of American Medical Colleges; Member, Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences
- **Elias Zerhouni, MD:** President of Global R&D, Sanofi Pharmaceutical; Former Director, National Institutes of Health; Member, Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences

At the Festival, Dean Reece also announced a series of major initiatives—including new technology, new collaborations and new translational research programs—that will further strengthen the School’s position as one of the fastest growing biomedical research enterprises in the nation.



Dr. Alan Shuldiner was moderator for the Surgery presentations.

SCIENCE

to Accelerate Innovation and Discovery in Medicine



Dean Reece with Drs. Needleman, Colwell, Greider, Snyderman and Zerhouni of the Scientific Advisory Council



Surgery's Steve Bartlett, Bartley Griffith, John Olson, Sunjay Kaushal and Rolf Barth



IGS' David Rasko, Rebecca Brotman, Tim O'Connor and Claire Fraser

Research Affairs Advisory Committee to Play Key Role in ACCEL-Med

Richard Eckert, PhD, *Chair*
 Stephen Bartlett, MD
 Cynthia Bearer, MD, PhD
 Curt Civin, MD
 Stephen Davis, MBBS
 Claire Fraser, PhD
 Thomas Hooven
 James Kaper, PhD
 Jay Magaziner, PhD, MSHyg
 Margaret McCarthy, PhD
 Robin Pierson III, MD
 Michael Shipley, PhD
 Alan Shuldiner, MD
 Dudley Strickland, PhD
 Zeljko Vujaskovic, MD, PhD



Nick Ambulos gave an overview and tour of the new core facilities before the Festival.

Dean Reece Announces New Challenge Award

The University of Maryland School of Medicine is dedicated to conducting exemplary biomedical research (basic, translational and clinical research and outcomes) to improve human health and well-being. To that purpose, Dean Reece is introducing a Dean's Challenge Award to Accelerate Innovation and Discovery in Medicine (ACCEL-Med) and encouraging senior SOM scientists to catalyze the launch of major "Big Science" research programs within the school and across departments, centers, institutes and programs. This award was inspired by a similar award, the Pioneer Award established by Scientific Advisory Council member Elias Zerhouni, MD, president of Global R&D for Sanofi Pharmaceutical and former director of the NIH.

Applications for the Dean's Challenge Award/ACCEL-Med must include senior investigators from two or more different departments, centers, programs and/or institutes, or any combination thereof, reflecting a major "Big Science" undertaking with significant collaborations across the School of Medicine.

The funding program is intended to provide the support needed to generate pilot data for new and ambitious research projects that advocate and advance "Big Science" over a two-year funding period, and that result in major research initiatives that are positioned to acquire a large federal funding base, such as

[continued on back page]



Center for Innovative Biomedical Resources (CIBR) Dedication Ceremony

Before the formal opening of the Festival, **Dr. Collins** officially dedicated the **Center for Innovative Biomedical Resources (CIBR)**, on the 7th floor of the Bressler Research Building. CIBR is the new home for many of the School of Medicine's biomedical core facilities, which have been consolidated into 30,000 square feet of renovated space on the sixth floor of Howard Hall and HSF-I—a \$7.3 million project funded by The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The CIBR facilities serve as a center of excellence for state-of-the-art technologies, equipment, and expertise that supports biomedical research, clinical practice and health care in the state of Maryland and the region. The new facilities give faculty greater access to sophisticated instrumentation, as well as highly-trained technical staff who can offer support to faculty on experimental design, data analysis and interpretation, and provide training for graduate and medical students, postdoctoral fellows, and faculty.

Scientific Advisory Council Offers Guidance to Festival of Science Presenters

During the Festival of Science, the Scientific Advisory Council (SAC) heard from three School of Medicine entities—two departments and one institute—regarding the exciting research being conducted here on campus. The Council then offered feedback to all of the presenters. Each presentation was lead by a moderator, and the SAC had the opportunity to ask questions of the researchers as they talked about their work.

The presenters were:

The Institute for Genome Sciences

(Moderator: **Robin Pierson, MD**)

- IGS Overview ~ *Claire Fraser, PhD*
- Application High-Throughput Sequencing to Genomic Epidemiology ~ *David Rasko, PhD*
- The Vaginal Microbiome and Women's Health: Implications for Clinical Translation ~ *Rebecca Brotman, PhD*
- Human Population Genomics with Next-Generation Sequencing ~ *Timothy O'Connor, PhD*



The Department of Pharmacology

(Moderator: **Curt Civin, MD**)

- The Department of Pharmacology: Current Success and Future Potential ~ *Margaret McCarthy, PhD*
- Neuropharmacology: Where We Are and Where We are Going ~ *Thomas Abrams, PhD*
- Oncopharmacology: Where We Are and Where We are Going ~ *Yun Qiu, PhD*

The Department of Surgery

(Moderator: **Alan Shuldiner, MD**)

- Department Overview ~ *Stephen Bartlett, MD*
- Vascularized Bone Marrow as an Immunomodulatory Approach in Transplantation ~ *Rolf Barth, MD*
- Clinical and Basic Research in Hyperparathyroidism: From Bedside (to Bank) to Bench ~ *John Olson, Jr., MD, PhD*
- Novel Therapeutics for Pediatric Cardiomyopathy Using Resident Cardiac Stem Cells ~ *Sunjay Kaushal, MD, PhD*
- “Halfway Technologies” and “Magical Metronomes” for Heart and Lung Diseases That Have “Left the Barn” ~ *Bartley Griffith, MD*



[continued from page 3]

Dean Reece Announces New Challenge Award

program project grants or center grants (P-series awards), cooperative agreements (U01 awards), or equivalent large awards.

Up to three Dean's Challenge Awards will be awarded in the amount of \$200,000 each, paid out at a rate of \$100,000 per year for two years. Awards will not be given for existing projects funded by other sources, cannot be used to cover senior faculty (P.I.) salary support, and are exempt from F&A (indirect costs). The total grant application page limit should follow the NIH guidelines for R21 proposals.

Proposals must be submitted to Sue Hobbs, Director of Research Administration, SOM, via email (shobbs@som.umaryland.edu). A website for the award will soon be established, but until then, please direct any questions to her attention.

All applications must be received by 5:00 p.m. EST on March 1, 2014. Applications received after the deadline will not be reviewed. Applications will be reviewed at a study section in April 2014, and the top proposals will be submitted for a second round of review by an internal council. Final selection will occur in May 2014 to determine the proposals to be funded. Recipients of the Dean's Challenge Award will be announced in June 2014, with funds in place by the start of fiscal year 2015 (July 1, 2014).



somnews

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND SCHOOL OF MEDICINE JANUARY 2014 VOL.15 No.5

SOMnews is produced by the University of Maryland School of Medicine, Office of Public Affairs
▲ E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA, Vice President for Medical Affairs, University of Maryland, and Dean, University of Maryland School of Medicine ▲ Chris Hardwick, Executive Editor ▲ Caelie Haines, Managing Editor
▲ Tom Jemski and Mark Teske, Head Shot Photos ▲ Brushwood Graphics Design Group, Design
▲ Submitting information to SOMnews: Please email your submission six weeks prior to the month you wish to see your submission included to Caelie Haines, Public Affairs Manager, at chaines@som.umaryland.edu.
▲ Printed using environmentally-responsible low VOC inks.



Find the University of Maryland School of Medicine on Facebook, <http://www.facebook.com/Maryland.Medicine> or follow us on Twitter @UMmedschool.

