

# SOM *news*

## Point of PRIDE



Dr. John Whitdrige Williams graduated from UMSOM in 1888. Dr. Williams was a pioneering obstetrician and recognized as the founder and leader of academic obstetrics in the United States.



## What's New...

SOMnews has now expanded to eight pages, with more information and special sections on Research & Discovery, Clinical Care, Academic Innovations, and Community Impact.

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## DEAN'S MESSAGE

This academic year holds many major milestones for the School of Medicine to which I enthusiastically look forward. We begin by looking back 100 years ago when the School first began accepting women. Our own personal pioneer in medical education, **Theresa Ora Snaith** became the first woman to graduate from the medical school in 1923. Celebrating this achievement, I would like to highlight the rather appropriate fact that we have enrolled a majority of women in our past 19 consecutive classes, including our newest Class of 2022 at 60 percent. As famed philanthropist Oprah Winfrey proclaimed, *"Excellence is the best deterrent to racism or sexism."* As our country has made great strides in trying to achieve gender and minority equality over the years, the School of Medicine has consistently remained ahead of this curve, according to data from the Association of American Medical Colleges. I extend the warmest welcome to each of our 156 new students and all our returning students. While individual excellence brought everyone to this campus, I project we will reach new heights of success and accomplishment through our freshly combined talents and skills. The Back to School/Back to Work event we held this month provided a wonderful opportunity for all students, faculty, and staff to reconnect after the summer.

While we welcome and celebrate new members of our community, we sadly must sometimes say goodbye to others. I wish to take a moment to honor the late **Dr. Edson Albuquerque**, our long-time friend and colleague who passed last month. Dr. Albuquerque's legacy includes transformational research that translated into important treatment for diseases, such as Alzheimer's and epilepsy, which impact millions of people. His work significantly contributed to our research at the School — we have lost a truly great scientist and a wonderful friend.

This month, we also honor **Dr. Milford "Mickey" Foxwell** as he steps down from his role of Associate Dean for Admissions, which he has tirelessly served in since 1990. Dr. Foxwell instrumentally contributed to the School of Medicine's success over the past three decades, and we will miss his leadership. We gratefully welcome **Dr. Sandra Quezada** into the role as Interim Associate Dean for Admissions, in which I am confident she will excel as she continues in her role as Assistant Dean for Academic and Multicultural Affairs, and Course Director for Medical Spanish. We also say goodbye to cherished colleague **Dr. Scott Strome** this month, who has accepted the position of Executive Dean at the College of Medicine and Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis. We owe a debt of gratitude to Dr. Strome for his 13 years of service as Chair of the Department of Otorhinolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery, in addition to his interim chairmanships of the ophthalmology and dermatology departments. We congratulate him for this superb accomplishment and wish him the best in his new role.

Next month, I look forward to the **2018 State of the School Address**, which will be held in **Leadership Hall on October 24 at 3:30 pm**. We will open the event with

## What's on My Mind...



...is the value of new beginnings, both those which occur routinely and those in which we have invested extra effort.



a special virtual tour and ceremonial ribbon-cutting in **Leadership Hall** of our newest research building, **Health Sciences Research Facility (HSRF) III**. The newly named **University of Maryland Medical System Atrium** in HSRF III will host a catered reception immediately following the State of the School presentation. The research building expands our School of Medicine footprint to more than 1.1 million square feet, housing more than 400 personnel and generating an additional estimated \$107.4 million in annual research funding. Our total grants and contracts funding for FY18 well exceeded \$535 million. This structure represents years of planning, developing, and hard work, culminating in the largest building ever constructed in the University System of Maryland. The biomedical research conducted in this building will provide the capacity to expand the School's life-saving programs. I am extremely proud of the effort it took to bring this project to fruition, including the promising potential of our students, faculty, and staff who prompted the needs for such a state-of-the-art facility as this.

While we take the time to settle into new and practiced routines, I hope everyone is looking forward to honoring the School of Medicine's special year of achieving and exceeding many milestones and breakthroughs. Furthering our educational, clinical, research, and community care missions, these stories always prove to inspire and motivate us anew.

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



DEPARTMENT OF OBSTETRICS, GYNECOLOGY AND REPRODUCTIVE SCIENCES



### A New Labor & Delivery Suite at a Glance

- 12 large, private LDRs (labor, delivery and recovery rooms) to accommodate mother, baby, and family;
- Three operating room suites;
- Five prep/recovery beds and five triage beds;
- High-risk birthing beds;
- Laboring tubs for pain relief and relaxation;
- Beds for partners to stay overnight with mom and baby;
- Family waiting and hospitality amenities;
- Advanced nurse call system that allows for instant individualized alerts to emergency and critical care teams;
- In-room neonatal care;
- Direct access to level IV NICU;
- Evaluation of newborn right at the mother's bedside so the family is part of the experience;
- Design that optimizes workflow and incorporates a wind-water theme to inspire calm and harmony.

*Delivering on*

# The Best of Care: NEW LABOR & DELIVERY SUITE PROVIDES STATE-OF-THE-ART BIRTHING EXPERIENCE

**On** Wednesday, September 5, 2018, the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences celebrated its newest arrival in a big way. Joined by Baltimore **Mayor Catherine E. Pugh**, the leadership of the University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMSOM), and the University of Medicine Medical Center (UMMC), as well as an overflow crowd of well-wishers, the department officially opened its new and expanded Labor & Delivery Suite with a ribbon cutting, reception, and tours. The \$22 million labor of love was made possible through hospital and state funding, as well as by private donations.

*“As an obstetrician-gynecologist myself with a subspecialty in Maternal and Fetal Medicine, I’ve spent a good portion of my life in labor and delivery facilities,”* notes UMSOM **Dean E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA**, who is also the Executive Vice President for Medical Affairs, UM Baltimore, and the John Z. and Akiko K. Bowers Distinguished Professor. *“So, having one as spacious, accommodating and advanced as this facility is a testament to this institution’s commitment to women’s and children’s health.”*

*“We have the only Critical Care Obstetrics program in the state and are one of just a handful in the country to treat critical complications of pregnancy that many mothers face. Because of this, it is essential that we stay up to date on the latest medical advances, which includes our people, technology, equipment, and facilities,”* says **Christopher Harman, MD**, Chair and **Sylvan Frieman, MD** Endowed Professorship and Chair, Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences at the UMSOM, and Director of the Center for Advanced Fetal Care. *“This new suite is a statement to the 400 critical care obstetrics patients who arrive here annually by helicopter from around the state and even beyond to take advantage of our specialized maternity care.”*

Two years in development, the new suite has expanded to three times the size of the previous space — close to 35,000 square feet of brand-new space and from 17 to 25 delivery rooms — to accommodate an expected 35 percent increase in deliveries by 2024. What’s more, the suite has been redesigned from the ground up and equipped with the latest technology to accommodate a full range of patient needs, from minimally invasive natural births with a midwifery team to cases requiring the highest level of obstetric intensive care — all within a beautiful, family-friendly environment. *“This new suite is designed to be the gold standard for labor and delivery — to meet and even exceed expectations,”* says **Sarah Crimmins, DO**, Assistant Professor



Participating in the Labor & Delivery ribbon-cutting: (L to R) UMSOM Dean E. Albert Reece, Mayor Catherine Pugh, Dr. Christopher Harman, and Dr. Mohan Suntha, UMMC President and CEO.





The new L&D suite's reception area, named in honor of Dr. M. Carlyle Crenshaw, one of the founders of modern high-risk OB care, was made possible through a gift by donor and noted photographer Brent Myers.



in Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Services at the UMSOM and Medical Director of the Labor and Delivery Unit. ***“It will be a comprehensive space for patients and their families to welcome a new life into this world and that will make certain the patient is a central part of the experience every step of the way.”*** Dr. Crimmins delivered her own two children at the previous labor and delivery suite.

Of course, the bottom line for an exceptional birthing experience is the quality of care on hand to manage whatever medical need that might arise. With a full 85 percent of all inpatient cases falling into the high-risk category, the Labor & Delivery team specializes in caring for pregnant women and newborn babies with a range of complex health conditions, ranging from heart disease, HIV, and substance abuse to respiratory failure, hemorrhagic shock, and stroke. Patients have direct access to not only obstetrical specialists, but also to a level IV neonatal intensive care unit and a complete range of pediatric subspecialists at University of Maryland Children’s Hospital.

***“In many cases, our patients represent the most complex cases that are referred by other centers,”*** says **Ozhan Mehmet Turan, MD**, Associate Professor in

Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Reproductive Sciences at the UMSOM, and Director of Fetal Therapy and Complicated Obstetrical Surgery, and Director of Maternal and Fetal Medicine Division. ***“The design of the new Labor & Delivery Suite allows our Maternal and Fetal Medicine specialists to work much more efficiently without moving the patient.”*** Dr. Turan also has high praise for the suite’s new fetal therapy operating room, the design of which reflects his major input. ***“This OR has been designed perfectly for complex surgeries and fetal therapy,”*** he says.

***“We offer a combination of nurses, physicians, and support staff that you just don’t find at other facilities,”*** says **Monika Bauman, MS, BSN, RN**, Patient Care Services Director for women’s and children’s health. ***“Our physicians are top-notch academic maternal and fetal medicine experts who work with a highly trained nursing staff, many of whom have advanced certification in obstetrics and training in critical care. Having all of our expertise integrated and coordinated in one location puts us in the best position to care for the sickest of women and most complicated births.”*** 🏥



Sisters (L to R) Maia K. DeBaugh, Anika L. Neverosky, and Remy Shaffer Gomes were on hand for the celebration. All of their six “miracles” were born at UMMC Labor & Delivery.



For more information about the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences, please call (667) 214-1300.



NEW HEALTH SCIENCES RESEARCH FACILITY III

UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

HSRF III **BEGINS A NEW ERA OF  
CUTTING-EDGE RESEARCH**







**HSRF III OFFERS:**

An open-plan laboratory facility with direct or indirect daylight in all labs, tissue culture rooms, and offices;

Mobile lab benches adjustable from 30 to 36 inches above floor, with quick ceiling disconnects for utilities;

Lab support rooms, including tissue culture and fume hood alcoves, adjacent to open wet bench labs;

“Dry lab” office block separated from the wet lab block by a six-story atrium, but easily accessed by bridges on each floor;

Multiple meeting and collaboration nooks on each floor;

Planned imaging core facility to house such high-end equipment as Prisma MRI 3 T, 11.7 Tesla 16 cm. bore small animal MRI, or 9.4 Tesla 20 cm. bore and Biograph mMR system;

A 25,000 sq. ft. vivarium with procedure rooms adjacent to animal holding space and aquatics research room.



**Years in the Making, the New Building Will Allow Scientists to Work More Effectively**

In the University of Maryland School of Medicine’s (UMSOM) HSRF III faculty physicians and scientists are using state-of-the-art laboratories and cutting-edge technology to develop breakthrough treatments for cancer, diabetes, and heart disease.

With 439,000 square feet, the building is the largest ever constructed in the University System of Maryland. Rising above Baltimore Street one block east of Martin Luther King Blvd., it makes for an impressive sight. HSRF III will create hundreds of jobs in West Baltimore, stimulate economic growth, and generate revenue for the city and state. The building, which is 10 stories tall, costs more than \$300 million to build. Analyses estimate that it will have an economic impact of \$6 billion and will produce \$20 million in tax revenue. UMSOM currently is in the process of recruiting 375 new faculty and staff to work there.

**New Standard of Excellence in Biomedical Research Innovation and Discovery**

**HSRF III** will accelerate the pace and scope of innovation and discovery, and will house investigators working to answer major research questions. It brings together a broad spectrum of programs, using a multidisciplinary approach to advance medicine beyond our imaginations. Research programs include the **Institute for Genome Sciences (IGS)**, the **Program in Personalized and Genomic Medicine**, and the new **Center for Epigenetic Research in Child Health and Brain Development (CERCH)**.

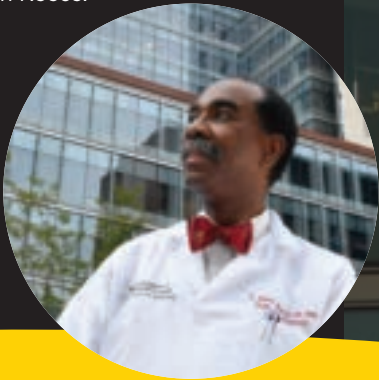
Among the researchers who have already moved in are **Tracy Bale, PhD**, a Professor at the UMSOM Department of Pharmacology and the Director of CERCH. Dr. Bale has focused much of her research on the links between stress and subsequent risk for neurodevelopmental disorders, including autism and schizophrenia in offspring. Her work on the placenta has found differences between males and females that may predict increased prenatal risk for disease in males. She has also found that in mice, a father’s stress can affect the brain development of offspring, and that the vaginal microbiome may play a role in transferring stress from mothers to her infants.

IGS also moved into the new building. Among its researchers are **Claire M. Fraser, PhD**, a Professor of Medicine at the UMSOM as well as IGS Director. Dr. Fraser has focused recently on the microbiome.

Working with **Marcelo B. Sztein, MD**, a Professor of Pediatrics at the UMSOM and Associate Director for Basic and Translational Research at the school’s Center for Vaccine Development and Global Health, Dr. Fraser has found evidence that the presence of a key species in the human gut microbiome is associated with protection from infection with typhoid fever. If the research is borne out, it could offer an exciting new way to reduce intestinal infections from microbes.

**THE BUILDING EXEMPLIFIES UMSOM'S RISE TO THE TOP ECHELON OF BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS NATIONWIDE**

*“We are aggressively working to unravel the causes and mechanisms underlying debilitating and deadly diseases, and develop effective therapeutics, vaccines, and cures. Over the past decade, we have had extraordinary growth in our research programs and have built a formidable biomedical research enterprise. Now, with our new building, as well as the recruitment of expanded teams of leading biomedical scientists and physician-scientists, we are poised to accelerate the trajectory of discovery and innovation in medicine,”*  
said Dean Reece.





# What it Means to be a Humanistic Physician



As medicine faces new demands, ensuring that medical students are equipped with both scientific expertise and a humanistic orientation is more crucial than ever. Education that promotes humanism and altruistic principles may help medical students improve how they incorporate these concepts into their future practices. Furthermore, research suggests that medically competent performance may not only require relevant knowledge skills, and self-perceived ability, but also a measure of empathetic and social aptitude. While medical schools recognize the significance of teaching their students humanistic values, there is substantial variation in how this is implemented.

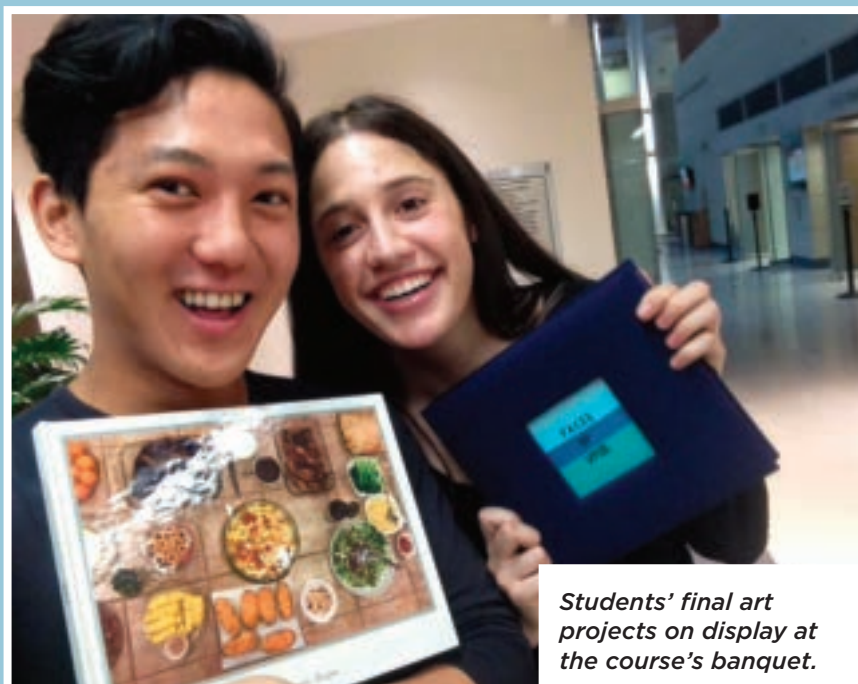
The University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMSOM) has taken the lead on examining what it means to be a humanistic physician through its Humanism Symposium elective course. The course is run by a small group of dedicated junior and senior students and two faculty advisors. **Kamilia Butler-Peres** and **Kelsey Sullivan**, both fourth-year medical students, currently co-lead the elective course; and **Kerri Thom, MD, MS**, Associate Professor of Epidemiology & Public Health and **Nirav Shah, MD**, Associate Professor of Medicine, provide guidance and support. The course meets once per week on Wednesday evenings from October through March and addresses topics across specialties, from medical ethics, cultural differences, and spirituality to the importance of mentorship.

*“Our class is rooted in the humanity of medicine,”* said Ms. Butler-Peres. *“We discuss culture, spirituality, and gender because those are integral components of people’s identities. We pose ethical dilemmas and challenge students on how to have difficult conversations with their patients.”* By limiting the class to 25 participants, the course provides an intimate environment where students can share their opinions without fear of judgment or penalty. Faculty leaders such as Drs. Shah and Thom are also instrumental in creating an inclusive forum for students to have open and honest dialogue about topics they are likely to encounter in the future. *“As physicians, we are asked to care for patients from all backgrounds with many different life circumstances — such as a new mother without insurance, an elderly woman with a hip fracture who just lost her husband, a college student struggling with addiction to opioids, or a homeless man with cancer,”* Dr. Thom explained.



***“Physicians must be prepared to care for the whole patient — addressing complicated and interconnected medical, social, and economic needs.”***

— Dr. Thom



*Students’ final art projects on display at the course’s banquet.*

The Humanism Symposium is offered to first- and second-year medical students before they start clinical rotations and interact with patients on a daily basis. *“Through the course, we seek to help participants recognize and appreciate alternate viewpoints, understand the difficulties and struggles patients face on a daily basis, and embrace the unique perspectives that that their patients bring to the table,”* said Ms. Sullivan.

This year, the course will collaborate with the Baltimore Museum of Art and the Everyman Theatre, reevaluate why Humanism is essential in medicine, and explore burnout and self-care, as this topic is on the minds of many students as they progress through their training. *“Pre-clinical years are often stressful and can feel long, leading many students to ask, ‘Why am I doing all of this?’ ”* said Dr. Shah.



***“The Humanism Symposium helps our students remember why they chose to enter into this profession.”***

— Dr. Shah

***“Medicine is complicated, and also beautiful and intriguing,”*** said Ms. Butler-Peres. ***“The Humanism Symposium reflects that.”*** 🏛️

This course is supported by the Emil A. Imemebo Memorial Fund. For more information about the Humanism Symposium, contact [HumanismSymposium@gmail.com](mailto:HumanismSymposium@gmail.com)



VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

# Children with Limb Differences Experience a Chance to Shine

With the support of the University of Maryland Children’s Hospital (UMCH) and the University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMSOM), **Joshua Abzug, MD**, Associate Professor of Orthopaedics, created Camp Open Arms, a three-day summer camp for children with congenital or traumatic limb differences. The camp, which began in 2014, recruits children from Maryland, Virginia, and Pennsylvania.

Camp Open Arms provides a safe and supportive environment for children to engage in traditional summer camp activities with their specific physical and emotional needs in mind. *“For a child with a congenital difference of the hands or upper extremity, the ability to move freely and play just like their peers, especially in everyday activities such as sports, is daunting, and quite literally, sometimes out of reach,”* said Dr. Abzug. As Deputy Surgeon-in-Chief at UMCH, Dr. Abzug interacts with such children and their parents on a daily basis through UMCH’s Pediatric Hand and Upper Extremity Program, the only dedicated pediatric upper extremity service in the region treating a wide array of birth disorders of the arms and hands.

This year marks the fourth annual Camp Open Arms. Campers aged 4 to 9 participated in a range of activities, including swimming, nature hikes, visits from local athletes and entertainers, and arts and crafts, all guided by volunteer counselors. Campers’ parents also were invited to engage in discussions with specialists on new advances in care for their children.

*“I finally have friends who are like me,”* shared a camper. 🏛️



Camp Open Arms is made possible through generous donors and volunteers. Individuals and organizations who are interested in supporting futures sessions of Camp Open Arms should contact the University of Maryland School of Medicine Office of Development at 410-706-8503.





Please Join UMSOM Dean E. Albert Reece for the 2018 State of the School Address and a Special Event Celebrating the Opening of the new Health Sciences Research Facility III.



UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

State of the  
School Address

Wednesday  
October 24

HEALTH SCIENCES RESEARCH FACILITY III

Ribbon-Cutting

2018

**LEADERSHIP HALL**

**3:30pm**

HSRF III Virtual Tour  
& Ribbon-Cutting

**3:45pm**

State of the School Address  
*From Groundbreaking to Record-Breaking*

**HSRF III**

**4:45pm**

Catered Reception in the  
New UMMS Atrium

670 W. BALTIMORE STREET

HS  
RF  
III

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**SOM**news



UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

655 West Baltimore Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21201-1559

**SOM**Pride



THE **CATALYST** CAMPAIGN

**PROUD TO WORK HERE.  
PROUD TO GIVE HERE.**

THROUGH INNOVATIVE MEDICAL EDUCATION, PIONEERING RESEARCH, AND LIFE-SAVING PATIENT CARE, THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND SCHOOL OF MEDICINE IS A CATALYST FOR IMPROVING HEALTH AND WELL-BEING LOCALLY, NATIONALLY, AND THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

**GIVE NOW** [medschool.umaryland.edu/Catalyst](http://medschool.umaryland.edu/Catalyst)



**“Practices”**

New UMSOM policy requires all patient care facilities to be called “practices.”

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