



SOMnews

Point of PRIDE



In 1995, Walker L. Robinson, MD '70, Maryland's first black neurosurgeon, discovered the existence of connective tissue at the skull base not previously described in medical literature, in in collaboration with UM School of Dentistry researchers.



DEAN'S MESSAGE

Each February, the **Celebrating Diversity Reception and Dinner** gives the School of Medicine the opportunity to reflect on the specific ways in which we have demonstrated our priorities of increasing and respecting diversity. Our special guests and honorees at this annual event help us bear witness to both the necessity and the reward of including an array of cultures, backgrounds, and beliefs in our academic community's population. Our roles as faculty, students, researchers, practitioners, staff, and trainees carry the charge to honor the wide variety of differences among us, including in our patients. Since our goals include having a positive impact on the health of the citizens of Baltimore, Maryland, and the region, we cannot ignore any one population. In fact, the unique compilation of race, ethnic origin, religion, and background among our peers and colleagues gives the School of Medicine a very special advantage.

The advantage of diversity compels us to consider a broad range of factors when we confront an issue. We need the exposure to differing perspectives and creative ideas when we encounter challenges like the COVID-19 strain of Coronavirus. We also need the advantage when we address cultural and institutional changes through our Culture Transformation Initiative. One of the most beautiful aspects of varying people joining together is the experience of finding common ground with each other. Whenever possible, we must seize the opportunity to join each other's causes, relate to each other, celebrate, and mourn together.

As we celebrate Black History Month and the many achievements of African Americans, we reflect on the tragic event of NBA legend Kobe Bryant's passing, which gave the world a most heartbreaking opportunity to unite. As a result of the highly visible platform by which we witnessed his prodigious talent, our society often viewed this superstar as superhuman. The global community empathized with his family and friends over a devastating shock — a stark reminder that not a single living soul possesses immunity from death.

Nevertheless, the better we equip ourselves, the better chance we have of prevailing over many of the everyday

What's on My Mind...



...is the power of diversity and the necessity of inclusion.

dangers that threaten to either prematurely take our lives or reduce the quality of our lives. By uniting, we empower each other. I was distinctly impressed by the collection of curious and compassionate minds at the recent **Confronting CRISPR: Scientific, Ethical, Legal and Social Issues on the Path Forward** event, hosted by our Center for Stem Cell Biology & Regenerative Medicine under the leadership of its director, **Dr. Curt Civin**, Harvard Medical School Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Dr. George Daley, and representatives from Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law, George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and the Boston Globe joined us to participate in the timely discussion on the controversial subject of gene editing. Where we seek treatments for diseases and other possible medical solutions, emerging technologies such as CRISPR require many conversations to consider both the advantages and implications. A conversation is only considered complete if truly all voices are spoken and heard. As a medical and scientific academic community, we have many more questions to ask and address, and many more people to include in the dialogue.

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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"With Commendation"

UMSOM Awarded ACCME Re-Accreditation for Continuing Medical Education

For **Nancy Ryan Lowitt, MD, EdM**, UMSOM's Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs & Professional Development, it couldn't have been better news to share. On February 4, she announced that the UMSOM has been awarded "Re-Accreditation with Commendation" for its Continuing Medical Education programs by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME). The re-accreditation, which is in force for the next six years, is the highest level of achievement recognized by the ACCME.

(Continued on page 8)

REALIZING *the* RENAISSANCE CURRICULUM



Dr. Joseph P. Martinez

Dr. Joseph Martinez Appointed Associate Dean for Medical Education and Student Experience

As the launch of UMSOM's new Renaissance Curriculum approaches a few short months from now, the Office of Academic Affairs is making certain that its best people are in place for a successful rollout. To that end, on February 1, **Joseph P. Martinez, MD**, Associate Professor in the Departments of Emergency Medicine and Internal Medicine, has been appointed Associate Dean for Medical Education and Student Experience.

In his new role, Dr. Martinez will lead and manage the Office of Medical Education with broad oversight over the School's curriculum, including structure, content, delivery, and assessment. A chief focus will be the implementation of the new Renaissance curriculum for MD degree students, which is expected to be fully in place by August 2020.

The new curriculum takes a systems-based approach to learning, combining instruction in both the healthy and disease processes of the body into related organ systems such as heart, lung, and kidneys. The curriculum aims to not only produce excellent physicians, but with an exceptional foundation enabling them to become excellent clinicians, researchers, scholars, and critical thinkers who compassionately care about social justice issues and the need for diversity. Dr. Martinez also will be responsible for monitoring and enhancing the students' learning environment throughout their time at the UMSOM. He succeeds **David B. Mallott, MD**, Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Associate Dean for Medical Education, who is retiring this year after many years of outstanding service to the UMSOM.

"We are extremely fortunate to have someone with Dr. Martinez's many years of experience in both student affairs and medical education at the UMSOM to assume the critically important role of Associate Dean for Medical Education," said UMSOM's Vice Dean for Academic Affairs **James B. Kaper, PhD**, who is also the James & Carolyn Frenkil Distinguished Dean's Professor and Chair of the Department of Microbiology & Immunology.



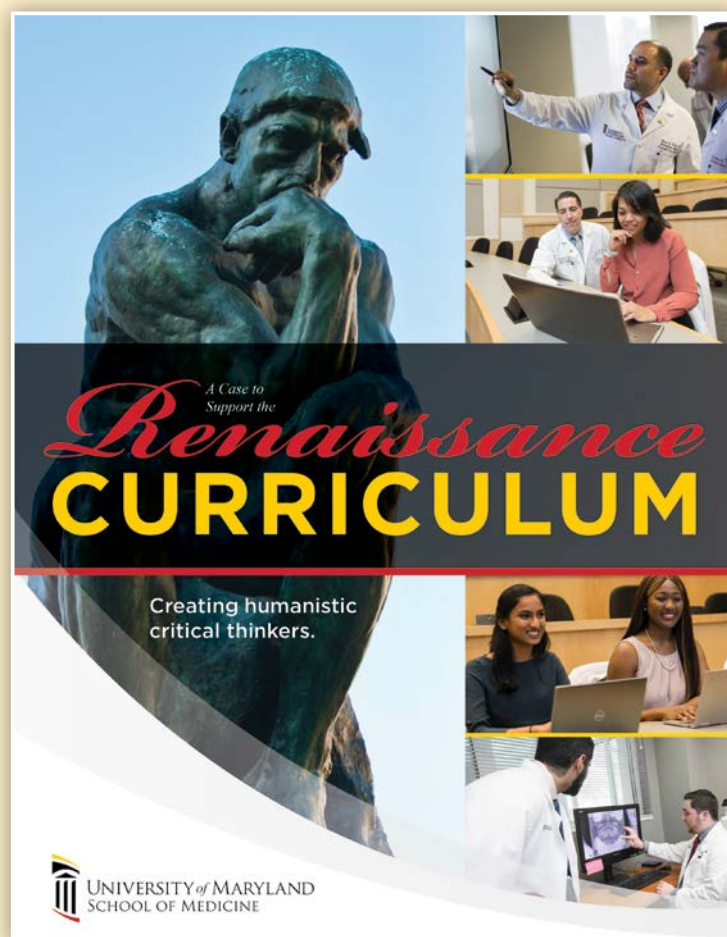
Dr. James B. Kaper

In the past, Dr. Martinez has had broad involvement in educational programs at the UMSOM. In 2019, he was named Lead Physician for the Program for Excellence in Patient-Centered Communication (PEP), an evidence-based curriculum developed by the Academy of Communication in Healthcare (ACH). The focus of the PEP program is to enhance communication between faculty physicians and their patients. He is a Certified Trainer for the program and has conducted numerous PEP workshops since 2016.

"I've always felt very passionately about education in general," Dr. Martinez said. "This new role affords me the chance to really make that the focus of my career and to prepare the next generation of students to be the best physicians that they can be."

Graduating from the University of Notre Dame in 1993, Dr. Martinez then attended medical school at the University of Maryland School of Medicine. He completed a combined residency in Emergency Medicine and Internal Medicine in 2003, and afterwards joined the UMSOM faculty. Dr. Martinez has been a member of the Dean's Office since 2005 when he was appointed to the position of Assistant Dean of Student Affairs. His responsibilities subsequently expanded to include the Office of Medical Education in 2016 when he assumed the additional role of Assistant Dean for Clinical Medical Education and Residency Programs Liaison.

"Dr. Martinez's longstanding commitment to excellence in medical education is one from which the UMSOM has greatly benefitted," said UMSOM Dean E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA. "I congratulate him on his new appointment and deeply thank Dr. Mallott for his 22 years of outstanding service."



ADVANCING *the* EDUCATION MISSION

Dr. Kristin Reavis Named Director of Student Diversity and Inclusion, and Dr. Constance Lacap Assistant Dean for Assessment



Dr. Kristin Reavis



Dr. Constance N. Lacap

As educational efforts at the UMSOM continue to advance and expand, new additional leadership has been tapped to keep this broad and vital mission firmly on course. This month, **Kristin Reavis, MD, MBS**, Assistant Professor of Family and Community Medicine, was named Director of Student Diversity and Inclusion in the Office of Student Affairs, while **Constance N. Lacap, DO**, Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, was appointed Assistant Dean for Assessment in the Office of Medical Education.

In her new role, Dr. Reavis leads efforts within the Office of Student Affairs to develop, coordinate, and evaluate student diversity and inclusion initiatives, with a goal of achieving inclusive excellence for all medical students at the UMSOM, especially those students from underrepresented backgrounds. She also serves as Faculty Advisor to the UMSOM Student Diversity Council. In addition, she will provide support and guidance to medical students dealing with experiences of exclusion and will coordinate with course directors to strengthen diversity and inclusive content within the UMSOM curriculum.

“Dr. Reavis has a longstanding commitment to diversity and inclusion, dating back to her days as a student at the School of Medicine,” said UMSOM Senior Associate Dean for Student Affairs **Donna Parker, MD**, who is also Senior Associate Dean for Undergraduate Medical Education. *“We are truly excited to have her join the medical education team.”*

Dr. Reavis has been on the faculty at UMSOM’s Department of Community and Family Medicine since 2013. She received her Medical Degree from the University of Maryland School of Medicine and completed her residency in Family Medicine at the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill.

In her new position, Dr. Lacap will work collaboratively with the Office of Medical Education staff, course directors, and others to further develop and maintain high-quality examination and evaluation processes within all areas of undergraduate medical education. In addition, she is a key member of the UMSOM’s Medical Education Continuous Quality Improvement Working Group.



Dr. Donna Parker

“Dr. Lacap has been significantly involved in medical education at UMSOM since 2012, serving as the Director of Medical Student Education in the Department of Psychiatry and also serving as the clerkship director for third-year medical students,” said Dr. Parker. *“In the latter position, she has been an important voice for consistency and innovation in the ways we evaluate students.”*

Dr. Lacap has been a faculty member in the UMSOM’s Department of Psychiatry since 2009. She has been significantly involved in medical education at the School since 2012, serving as the Director of Medical Student Education in the Department of Psychiatry as well as the clerkship director for third-year students. Dr. Lacap earned her Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine Degree from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey School of Osteopathic Medicine and completed her residency at the University of Maryland/ Sheppard Pratt Psychiatry Residency Program. She is board certified with the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology.

“Dr. Lacap and Dr. Reavis will both play critical roles in enhancing our excellence in medical education,” said Dean **E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA**. *“I congratulate both of them and know their expertise and new roles will truly help advance the education we offer here at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, ensuring we have a diverse setting and curriculum.”* 🏛️

RECOGNIZING LEADERS IN THEIR FIELDS

MAJOR GRANT

NIH GRANTEES WITH 3 OR MORE R01-EQUIVALENTS IN FY19*



- | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| 1 Peixin Yang, PhD , Professor of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences | 5 Joseph F. Cheer, PhD , Professor of Anatomy and Neurobiology | 10 Motomi Enomoto-Iwamoto, DDS, PhD , Professor of Orthopaedics | 14 Margaret M. McCarthy, PhD , Professor of Pharmacology |
| 2 Alan I. Faden, MD , Professor of Anesthesiology | 6 Zhe Han, PhD , Associate Professor of Medicine | 11 James M. Gold, PhD , Professor of Psychiatry | 15 J Marc Simard, MD, PhD , Professor of Neurosurgery |
| 3 Junfang Wu, BM, PhD , Associate Professor of Anesthesiology | 7 J-Y Wang, MD, PhD , Professor of Surgery | 12 Yuxing Li, PhD , Associate Professor of Microbiology and Immunology | 16 Stefanie N. Vogel, PhD , Professor of Microbiology and Immunology |
| 4 Jonathan S. Bromberg, MD, PhD , Professor of Surgery | 8 Tracy L. Bale, PhD , Professor of Pharmacology | 13 Mary Kay Lobo, PhD , Associate Professor of Anatomy and Neurobiology | 17 Liqing Justin Yu, MD, PhD , Professor of Medicine |
| | 9 Wei Chao, MD, PhD, FAHA , Professor of Anesthesiology | | |

* Data is based on the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Exporter data and only includes NIH grants for which a Notice of Grant Award (NGA) was issued during the Federal FY19 (October 1, 2018 - September 30, 2019). Thus, grants in a no-cost extension are not included in these totals. Multi-PI R01s are counted towards the PI R01 total, but supplements are not included. R01-equivalents are defined by the NIH as including: DP1, DP2, DP5, R01, R23, R29, R37, R56, RF1, RL1, U01, and select R35s.

**Direct costs are for Federal FY19 only and are based on NIH Exporter data and only include NIH awards for which an NGA was issued during the Federal FY19 (October 1, 2018 through September 30, 2019). Thus, awards are only included if they are listed in NIH Reporter and grants in a no-cost extension are not included in these totals. For multi-PI awards, the dollar amount credited to each investigator is the total direct costs of the grant in FY19 divided by the number of PIs. Core PIs and Project Leaders also receive credit for the total direct costs of their components of the large grants if the projects and cores are reported separately in the NIH reporting system, regardless of the contact institution for the overall grant.

† New K awards are based on NIH Exporter data for the Federal FY19 and only include new NIH K awards with an NGA issued during this time (October 1, 2018 through September 30, 2019).

MAKERS

The University of Maryland School of Medicine would like to recognize our major grant makers. The following physicians and scientists are leaders in their fields and the foundation for new research discoveries transforming the UMSOM.

GRANTEES WITH GREATER THAN OR EQUAL TO \$1.4M AWARDED IN NIH DIRECT COSTS FOR FY19**



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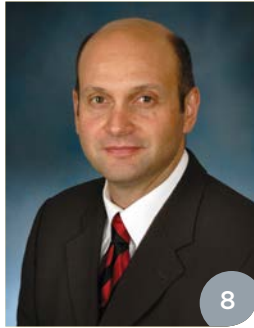
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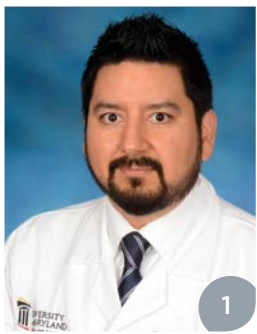
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- 1 **Robert C. Gallo, MD**, Professor of Medicine
- 2 **Kevin J. Cullen, MD**, Professor of Medicine
- 3 **Jay S. Magaziner, PhD, MSHyg**, Professor of Epidemiology & Public Health
- 4 **Robert Schwarcz, PhD**, Professor of Psychiatry
- 5 **Owen R. White, PhD**, Professor of Epidemiology & Public Health
- 6 **Myron M. Levine, MD, DTPH**, Professor of Medicine
- 7 **Junfang Wu, BM, PhD**, Associate Professor of Anesthesiology
- 8 **Joao H.F. Pedra, PhD**, Associate Professor of Microbiology and Immunology
- 9 **Alexandros Pouloupoulos, PhD**, Assistant Professor of Pharmacology
- 10 **David A. Rasko, PhD**, Professor of Microbiology and Immunology

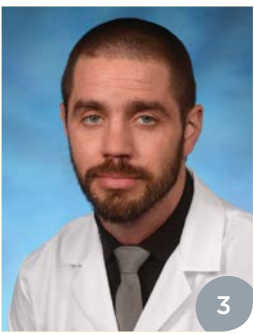
NEW NIH K AWARDEES†



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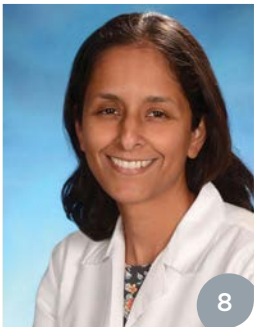
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- 1 **David R. Benavides, MD, PhD**, Assistant Professor of Neurology
- 2 **Diana N. Carvajal, MD, MPH**, Assistant Professor of Family & Community Medicine
- 3 **Daniel P. Covey, PhD**, Assistant Professor of Anatomy and Neurobiology
- 4 **David Dreizin, MD**, Associate Professor of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine
- 5 **Meagan C. Fitzpatrick, PhD**, Assistant Professor of Medicine
- 6 **Shama Iyer, PhD**, Post-Doctorate Fellow in Orthopaedics
- 7 **Amed Ouattara, PhD, Dpharm**, Research Associate in Medicine
- 8 **Rekha R. Rapaka, MD, PhD**, Assistant Professor of Medicine
- 9 **Alan M. Rathbun, PhD, MPH**, Assistant Professor of Epidemiology & Public Health
- 10 **Shabnam Salimi, MD, MSc**, Assistant Professor of Epidemiology & Public Health
- 11 **Natalie E. Zlebnik, PhD**, Assistant Professor of Anatomy and Neurobiology



Nation's Legal Scholars, Physician-Scientists, and Medical School Leaders Convene to Discuss an Ethical Path Forward

Photo above – CRISPR Panelists (L to R): Dr. Hong, Professor Ram, Dr. Kwilas, Professor Henry, Dean Daley, Dean Reece

CRISPR: PROMISE OR PERIL?

While CRISPR, the innovative gene editing technology, holds enormous potential for treating and curing diseases caused by genetic mutations, it is also controversial, as scientists and medical experts debate the full ethical implications of editing the genomes of human embryos to permanently alter the human species.

Using CRISPR to alter an embryo would affect the genetic basis of future generations. That possibility, coupled with claims in 2018 by a Chinese scientist that he altered embryos to create the first genome-edited babies, have renewed already heated debates about embryonic research, the moral and legal status of the embryo, and the role of government regulations.

To confront and discuss these potential ethical issues, UMSOM convened an expert panel on Thursday, January 30, led by Harvard Medical School Dean **George Daley, MD, PhD**, and UMSOM Dean **E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA**.

Entitled “CONFRONTING CRISPR: Scientific, Ethical, Legal and Social Issues on the Path Forward,” the symposium focused on the current state of CRISPR

science and technology, the relevant legal and regulatory landscape, and steps that the scientific, medical, and legal communities should take to set the appropriate pace for adoption of this new technology with attention to inclusion of historically under-represented patient populations. The event was sponsored by the Herman and Walter Samuelson Foundation and the Maryland Stem Cell Research Fund.

“We brought together government officials, medical ethicists, legal scholars, and researchers to outline the important issues and determine the best pathway to take as we anticipate this new technology being made

available to a growing array of patients,” said **Curt Civin, MD**, Professor of Pediatrics and Physiology and Director of the Center for Stem Cell Biology & Regenerative Medicine at UMSOM, who also served as a moderator for the panel discussion.

Other symposium panelists included:

- Sharon Begley, Senior science writer, STAT, the life sciences publication of the Boston Globe
- Shawneequa Callier, MA, JD, Associate Professor, Department of Clinical Research and Leadership, George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences
- **Charles C. Hong, MD, PhD**, Melvin Sharoky Professor, Division of Cardiovascular Medicine; Director of Cardiovascular Research, UMSOM Department of Medicine
- **Tami Kingsbury, PhD**, Assistant Professor of Physiology; Center for Stem Cell Biology & Regenerative Medicine; Leader of UMSOM’s CRISPR Services
- Anna Kwilas, PhD, Gene Therapy Product Reviewer at the Food and Drug Administration’s Center for Biologics and Evaluation Research
- **Laurie Locascio, PhD**, Vice President for Research, University of Maryland
- Debra Matthews, PhD, MPH, Associate Professor, Berman Institute of Bioethics, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
- Leslie Meltzer Henry, PhD, JD, Professor, Francis King Carey School of Law, University of Maryland, and panel moderator.
- Natalie Ram, JD, Associate Professor, Francis King Carey School of Law, University of Maryland

“Leaders in medicine — especially those of us responsible for teaching the next generation of physicians and scientists — need to continuously look ahead and anticipate which innovations will soon be heading into our clinical practice and what that means for patients,” said Dean Reece. “CRISPR is coming and with its arrival is the need to develop strong guidelines on its implementation, not only for the scientific community, but for the public as a whole.”



Harvard Medical School Dean, **George Daley, MD, PhD** (L) and UMSOM Dean **E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA**

ANNUAL STEM EVENT

UMGCCC Hosts 6th Annual Women in STEM Event

High School Students Visit UMSOM for Insight into Future Careers In STEM

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment in professions related to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) is expected to grow to more than \$9 million by 2022. STEM education has proven to bridge the ethnic and gender divide often found in technology and science fields. Now in its 6th year, the University of Maryland Greenbaum Comprehensive Cancer Center (UMGCCC), with support from local vendors and sponsors, hosts an annual STEM workshop for female high school students at the University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMSOM). Students spend a day in our medical and science facilities, isolating DNA cells, touring labs, and participating in a panel and round-table discussion with professional women working in medicine, engineering, computer science, and mathematics.

“While there are substantially more women in science-based fields, rates are still very low in technology, computer science, and engineering. These rates drop even further for students of different racial backgrounds and low socioeconomic status,” says **Rena Lapidus, PhD**, Associate Professor of Medicine, and Assistant Director of the UMGCCC Shared Services.

Dr. Lapidus along with **Karen Underwood, MS**, who is a Lead Research Specialist at UMGCCC’s Flow Cytometry Shared Service Facility, have spent the last several years recruiting a diverse group of high students throughout the state of Maryland to participate in their free, day-long STEM workshops. The STEM outreach program is offered twice a semester — a co-ed program in the spring and a program specifically tailored for girl students in the fall. Over 60 students registered for the program last November.

“One of the beauties of our program is that students get the chance to interact with high schoolers from all walks of life,” Karen says. ***“They get an opportunity to speak with several STEM professionals and ask questions about leadership, work-life balance, and how to excel in male dominated professions.”***



Students began the session learning about chemical and laboratory safety, followed by a laboratory activity, panel discussion, and facility tour. ***“My lab grows the mouse cancer cells which are used in the DNA extraction activity,”*** says Dr. Lapidus, who also serves as the Director of the Translational Laboratory Shared Service at UMGCCC. Her plays a critical role in translating novel drugs from the bench to the bedside. ***“During this session, our graduate student and postdoctoral fellow volunteers, who are also all women, share their STEM journeys and encourage the students to consider educational tracks in underrepresented fields.”***

With the help of local and UMSOM STEM professionals and groups, the duo has also been able to offer students mentorship and internship opportunities well after the workshops have concluded.

“STEM skills are a way to change the world,” says Karen. ***“Having the opportunity to light a spark and build a passion in students, who may not get this type of opportunity, is why we are so invested in this outreach experience.”***

The next Co-ed STEM Event will take place in April 22, 2020. 📅

For more details about the program and how to support, please contact Karen Underwood at kunderwood@som.umaryland.edu



“With Commendation”

Continued from page 1

According to ACCME, this accreditation is designed to assure the medical community and the public that UMSOM is delivering education that is relevant to clinicians’ needs, evidence-based, evaluated for its effectiveness, and independent of commercial influence.

“This ACCME re-accreditation with commendation is an important recognition of our commitment provide the most advanced, relevant and high-quality continued training to our physicians,” said Dr. Lowitt.

Participation in accredited CME programs helps physicians meet requirements for maintenance of licensure, maintenance of certification, credentialing, membership in professional societies, and other professional privileges. Physicians can count on accredited CME to provide a protected space for them to learn and teach without commercial influence.

In meeting the re-accreditation, the ACCME reviewed if UMSOM demonstrated how the CME program will help improve performance or patient outcome and if the program addresses the needs of practitioners. The re-accreditation also took into account the role of patient and public representatives and students in the planning and delivery of CME programming.

Importantly, this ACCME also reviewed factors beyond critical care that affect health of populations and whether the UMSOM collaborates with other organizations to more effectively address population health issues.

“At the University of Maryland School of Medicine, we strive to be a leader in providing the most relevant and highest quality learning tools to support our research and care as we tackle the most challenging diseases and illnesses in the world,” said UMSOM Dean **E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA.** 🏛️



Dr. Nancy Ryan Lowitt



What I love about the . . .



UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND
SCHOOL of MEDICINE

“I am grateful to be a part of the UMSOM community and cherish the physical spaces that foster connection and collaboration with my peers.”

- Ololade ‘Lola’ Sanusi
MD Class of 2020

THE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE IS COMMITTED TO A SAFE, RESPECTFUL, AND INCLUSIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT.
TODAY AND EVERYDAY.

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

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