**Pioneer Civin Is Recruited to Lead New Stem Cell Center**

Curt Civin, MD, a pioneer in cancer research who is known for developing a way to isolate stem cells from other blood cells, has joined the University of Maryland School of Medicine. Civin will become a professor of pediatrics in the Division of Hematology/Oncology, as well as associate dean for research and the founding director of the School’s new Center for Stem Cell Biology and Regenerative Medicine.

The quality of the School of Medicine’s faculty was a draw for Civin as he pondered joining the University of Maryland. “I was so impressed by the recruitment, his research includes learning how to modify the key properties of stem cells in order to increase their therapeutic potential. In addition, his research includes understanding how normal stem cells become cancerous.”

For the Center for Stem Cell Biology and Regenerative Medicine, the University of Maryland steps into a leadership position in the burgeoning field of stem cell research and regenerative medicine.”

**Dean E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA, who appointed Civin to his new positions, says, “With the recruitment of Dr. Civin and the founding of the new Center for Stem Cell Biology and Regenerative Medicine, the University of Maryland will become a critical player in the field of stem cell biology and will travel to Ireland in the spring.”

The center will explore how to transplant these cells into patients. The School of Medicine’s stem cell research encompasses more than $2 million in extramural funding annually, including several grants from the Maryland Stem Cell Research Fund, chaired by Karen H. Rothenberg, JD, MBA, dean of the University of Maryland School of Law.

“As I complete 30 years of wonderful experience at Johns Hopkins, I’m confident I will maintain my friendships and working relationships with colleagues there,” says Civin. “I want this new center and its work to have a global impact. To that end, I look forward to collaborating with colleagues at Johns Hopkins and at other prestigious Maryland institutions such as the Maryland Cancer Institute and the rest of the National Institutes of Health, as well as other scientists around the globe.”

Four members of the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) community are among the U.S. and foreign scholars who were recently awarded Fulbright Scholarships to lecture and conduct research abroad. Roberta L. Zuckerman, PharmD, PhD, chair of the Department of Pharmacology and Psychiatry at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, has made in recent years, from Dr. Akiko K. Bowers Distinguished Professor, and dean of the School of Medicine, has been named chair of the American Medical Colleges (AAMC) Council of Deans for 2008 to 2009. Reece began his one-year term at the association’s 119th annual meeting in San Antonio, in November.

The AAMC Council of Deans strives for the continuing improvement of the nation’s medical schools by identifying issues affecting academic medicine and developing strategies to achieve the various missions of medical schools across the U.S. As chair of the council, Reece is an advocate for the AAMC and the nation’s medical schools. He also promotes the advancement of institutional management and supports fellows in guiding schools toward excellence in medical education, research, and patient care.

“Biomedical research is a proven economic engine, and investment in this sector needs to be part of any economic stimulus package,” he says. Another priority will be to make the AAMC the nation’s authority on medical school rankings. The AAMC is a not-for-profit association representing all 130 accredited U.S. and 17 accredited Canadian medical schools, nearly 400 major teaching hospitals and health systems including 68 Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers, and nearly 90 academic and scientific societies. Through these institutions and organizations, the AAMC represents 125,000 faculty members, 70,000 medical students, and 104,000 resident physicians.

**Four Fulbrights Among UMB Community**

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**President’s Message**

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The University’s Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Black History Month Celebration

Please check the University Web site for details www.umaryland.edu.

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A coalition of oral health educators, local dentists, public health officials, children’s advocacy groups, and administrators from the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) held a news conference with Gov. Martin O’Malley in November. The coalition reported on significant advances and new partnerships to ensure oral health care for low-income young people who will receive the full array of services at public health schools and units. Our fiscal challenges may not be over. As Abraham Lincoln commented in his second address to the U.S. Congress in 1862, “The dogmas of the quiet past are inadequate to the stormy present.” As matters develop, I shall keep you informed. In the meantime, I appreciate your patience, your trust, and your willingness to carry on in the face of fiscal uncertainty. I particularly commend your generous support of the Maryland Charities Campaign. The University of Maryland, Baltimore is the crown jewel in Maryland’s public higher education system. We have come too far in the more than 200-year history to put off-track by an uncertain economy. Our faculty, our programs, and our alumni have given too much to this campus to have their work devalued by a declining economy. Together we must persevere and advance our vision by continuing to build our very strong institution until it is widely recognized as one of the very best in the nation.

In closing, I can indeed turn “adversity” into “the rain of spring.”

John Geiman

Geiman Named Acting VP for Administration and Finance

The Dental School is among the nine winners of the 2008 Mayor’s Business Recognition Awards, which were presented by Baltimore Mayor Sheila Dixon during luncheon ceremonies in December at the Hyatt Regency Baltimore. The 35th annual business awards program, an initiative of the Greater Baltimore Committee and the Baltimore Development Corp., honors civic leadership and outstanding community service.

The Dental School received the award for partnering with the Maryland State Dental Association to develop and pilot a new service program that will provide oral health care to underserved children.

Geiman now oversees the offices of operations and planning, police and public safety, and cost analysis and studies.
Civil Rights Laws Offer Hope for Victims of Cyber Attacks

JEFFREY RAYMOND

Online threats and attacks in the virtual realm often have real consequences in the flesh-and-blood world, and Danielle Citron, JD, associate professor at the School of Law, says federal law must address this dangerous problem.

“We should think about these online attacks, which are largely against women—but also racial, religious, and other minority groups—as a civil rights problem,” says Citron, an expert in privacy and cyberspace law. Potential solutions, she adds, lie in amending the federal Violence Against Women Act to allow for civil remedies against online harassers, and in allowing courts to force Internet service providers to trace online threats to their sources.

After working on the paper “Cyber Civil Rights,” Citron was busy last fall speaking about the need to address the organized, targeted use of lies, threats of violence, and denial-of-service attacks that knock Web sites offline. Victims are frequently forced to at least mute their online speech or, at worst, alter their lives to protect their safety. Citron spoke at Yale University, at an Anti-Defamation League conference on Internet hate in Washington, D.C., and during a conference at the University of Chicago on speech, privacy, and the Internet.

Though women who blog and have online discussions have been subjected to inflammatory responses that lead to problems including loss of career opportunities and threats of violence, Citron says too few mainstream voices believe that these attacks—frequently perpetrated by anonymous “cyber mobs”—are a genuine and widespread menace. But she believes graphic, violent, and slanderous online postings are “like a cross burning on your lawn.”

“We need to see this as a systemic problem,” she says. Citron hopes that conferences such as those she addressed last fall will help build momentum for nationwide reform. The robust, freelancing exchanges that are characteristic of online communities are chilled when women and minorities are subjected to harassment, she says. “It’s a less exciting Web if we don’t have women and minorities and gays. It’s less diverse.”

Citron believes the court system can protect free speech while reducing Internet users’ fear of harassment. But, she cautions, “This is a long-term project.”

UMB Helps Create Public Health Institute in India

ROSALIA SCALIA

What started as a small research project in 1997 has grown into an international first. The Asian Institute of Public Health (AIPH)—India’s first comprehensive public health school—is the result of a partnership among the Indian government, its top physicians, and the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB).

Dedicated to public health and opened in Orissa in November, AIPH serves as a resource center for scholars, medical officers, personnel from international and national health agencies, district health managers, social workers, social scientists, and corporate sector visitors. These partners are all interested in transforming what are now rudimentary public health systems in India and the surrounding region.

“What we’re establishing is really for the benefit of the next generations who will inevitably live in the world without borders. AIPH will play a key role in assuring that there will be equitable distribution of precious health resources available to mankind,” says David J. Ramsay, DM, DPhil, UMB president. Ramsay traveled to India for the launch of AIPH.

The institute—the brainchild of Pinaki Panigrahi, formerly assistant professor of pediatrics and epidemiology and preventive medicine in the School of Medicine’s Division of Neonatology—will provide an interactive medicine in the School of Medicine’s School of Pediatrics and Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine, and will provide training and research institution in Orissa’s medical schools that will address unmet public health needs as well as bring health care benefits to the people of India and the surrounding region. A separate story about the school’s work will be published in next week’s National Journal.

“AIPH with its world-class U.S.-based faculty, in partnership with Indian counterparts, will strengthen the technical and management capacity of human resources in public health,” says N. K. Ganguly, MD, DSc, FRC Path, longtime director general of the Indian Council of Medical Research and now the president of the AIPH board. “This will bring immediate health-care benefits to the people of Orissa and India and address the many unmet public health needs as well as being a resource for training. AIPH will surely be a landmark training and research institution in Asia.”

Ramsay says: “The platform Dr. Panigrahi created will serve as a role model as we build different centers of excellence under the AIPH umbrella, and this will open new doors to future collaborations with UMB faculty in the fields of nursing, medicine, and social work.”

May 15, 2009—The most important day of our academic year!

This year, expect the extraordinary. A special Commencement 2009 Web site is on its way with up-to-date information on events; accommodations within walking distance of the University, convention venues for each School, and the Commencement ceremony at the 1st Mariner Arena; and area attractions, including tours of Camden Yards, to help make Commencement 2009 memorable for graduates and their families.

The Web site will also list special hotel rates, discounts at area attractions, and easy parking. Stay tuned for the Commencement 2009 Web site to be posted soon on the University of Maryland, Baltimore home page (www.umaryland.edu).
LAURELS

DENTAL SCHOOL
Dentistry Today named Dental School faculty member Howard Strassler, DMD, one of its 2009 Top Clinicians in Continuing Education in its December 2008 issue. According to the magazine, the 11th annual directory “spotlights the many professional educators leading the way in continuing education.”

SCHOOL OF LAW
Out of 60 best law schools for public interest law listed in The National Jurist magazine’s November 2008 issue, the School of Law was ranked seventh. Rankings were based on student involvement, curriculum, and financial factors.

SCHOOL OF NURSING
Barbara Resnick, PhD, RN, CRNP, FAAN, FAANP, professor, was awarded the Doris Schwartz Gerontological Nursing Research Award at the 61st Gerontological Society of America’s Scientific Meeting. This prestigious award recognizes a nurse researcher who has provided outstanding and sustained contributions to geriatric nursing research.

Deborah Sherman, PhD, APRN, ANP, BC, AGACNP, FAAN, assistant dean of research and professor, is the recipient of the 2009 Leading the Way Award from the Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association. The award recognizes a nursing leader who has made a significant impact on hospice and palliative nursing.

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY
Dongyi Du, a graduate student in the School of Pharmacy’s Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research, was selected for the Food and Drug Administration Commissioner’s Fellowship Program, which provides a two-year opportunity for health professionals and other scientists to receive training and experience at one of the world’s most prestigious regulatory agencies.

Lynn McPherson, PharmD, a professor of pharmacy practice and science, has been named vice chair of education in the School of Pharmacy’s Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science.

Peter Swaan, PhD, a professor of pharmaceutical sciences and director of the Center for Nanomedicine and Cellular Delivery, has been named editor-in-chief of the journal Pharmaceutical Research, the official journal of the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists.

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
Amy Cohen-Callow, PhD, MSSW, has been selected as the recipient of the Gerontological Society of America’s Cvic Engagement in an Older America Project Junior Scholar Award for her research “Factors Related to Older Adult Volunteer Behaviors: Testing a Model of Volunteer Sustainability.”

Professor Lee Cornelius, PhD, has been appointed to the Board of Scientific Counselors for the National Center for Health Statistics by the secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

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EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

NOVEMBER SHARRON GRAVES
Written by Ronald Hube

When applicants to the medical school’s Program in Molecular Medicine visit the University, they spend a lot of time with Sharron Graves. Working 12- to 14-hour days, Graves greets them with breakfast, gives them walking tours of the campus and downtown Baltimore, schedules their faculty interviews, and arranges their meals and evening events. She does a great deal for the applicants before their campus visits too, including arranging—and rearranging, when needed—their travel to the University.

Performing these and other duties so well has earned Graves, the Program in Molecular Medicine’s academic coordinator, the University’s Employee of the Month Award for November 2008.

“In my opinion, the success of the molecular medicine graduate program is due largely to her efforts. …” write Dudley Strickland, PhD, in nominating Graves for the award. Strickland is the director of the Program in Molecular Medicine.

Created in 2005, the large interdisciplinary program has about 150 faculty and 70 students in multiple departments in the schools of medicine and dentistry and at the University of Maryland Biotechnology Institute. Graves, who has been the program’s academic coordinator for more than two years, “has done an outstanding job in what I consider to be a very challenging position,” Strickland wrote, adding that she interacts with people “in such a pleasant manner that students and faculty are immediately put at ease.” Strickland and others also credit Graves’ “human investment” in recruiting students with attracting high-scoring and extremely talented candidates.

University President David J. Ramsay, DM, DPhil, surprised Graves with the Employee of the Month Award during a presentation in the Graduate Program in Life Sciences office at the School of Medicine in the fall.

“I was elated and honored to receive the Employee of the Month Award,” Graves says. “I really enjoy being a part of the University and the molecular medicine program. I can honestly say that I look forward to each weekend and the challenges and rewards that come along with my position.”

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Employee of the Month

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Ride UMB/BioPark Hours and Route

The Ride UMB/BioPark shuttle is free with University identification. Shuttle hours of operation are 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Friday.

More information is available at www.parking.umaryland.edu/RideUMB.pdf or by calling 6-6603.

Fulbrights from page 1

she says. Zuckerman is the founder and executive director of the Pharmaceutical Research Computing center at the School of Pharmacy, and a director at the School’s Peter Lamy Center for Drug Therapy and Aging.

In March, Mullins will travel for three weeks to the National University of Ireland at Galway, where he will help develop a program in health technology assessment. Mullins, whose specialty is pharmacoconomics, is associate director of the School of Pharmacy’s Center on Drugs and Public Policy.

Fulbright visiting scholars include Emmanuel Kasimbazi, PhD, LLM, former dean of the law school at Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda. He is researching environmental law courses and curriculum development at the University of Maryland School of Law and has consulted on environmental law for the World Bank, African Development Bank, and the United Nations Environmental Programme, among others.

The second visiting Fulbright scholar is Oliver Maddocks, PhD, a postdoctoral fellow at Western General Hospital in Edinburgh, Scotland. He is spending a year at the School of Medicine to research the role of enteropathic E. coli in the development of colon cancer.

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School of Pharmacy, Medical Center Form Partnership for Training

The School of Pharmacy and the University of Maryland Medical Center’s Department of Pharmacy have joined forces to create a combined residency program to enhance the training of pharmacists.

The new University of Maryland Pharmacy Residency and Fellowship Program brings together resources to broaden patient care training in many specialty areas including intensive care, trauma, cardiology, and transplantation. The program also offers expanded training opportunities in research and pharmacy management.

Under the agreement, residents are also involved in teaching, usually in their area of expertise or interest. All residents are required to attend pharmacotherapy rounds and management seminars, and they must design and complete a research project and present the findings.

“Our goal with this extended partnership with the medical center is to be a national model of collaboration between schools of pharmacy and university-based health centers,” says Natalie D. Eddington, PhD, dean of the School of Pharmacy. Eddington describes the agreement as “a unique and innovative relationship between the School of Pharmacy and its affiliated hospital.” This will provide a strong foundation for residency experiences at the School, “she says.

Emergency Management Team Announces Test of New Web Alerts System

The University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) Emergency Management Team conducted a test of the new Web alerts system during the holidays. The test was clearly indicated on the home page (www.umaryland.edu) as it took place.

Previously, users could access the Web alerts system from a link on the UMB home page during a crisis or weather-related emergency. Under the new system, in addition to this link, the Web alerts can be made available in a box on the home page, or, in an extreme emergency, Web alerts can replace the home page with an emergency alerts home page.

“It is the hope of the Emergency Management Team that this system is one more step in our efforts to communicate efficiently and quickly with the whole campus community,” says Robert Rowan, MS, assistant vice president for facilities management and chair of the Emergency Management Team.

Stronger Business Practices Encouraged Among Pharmacists

“Business practices have never been more important,” says Robert Rowan, MS, assistant vice president for facilities management and chair of the Emergency Management Team. “You have to embrace business principles.”

Buffington, president and CEO of Clinical Pharmacology Services in Tampa, Fla., delivered the 2008 Francis S. Balassone Memorial Lecture. Described by Natalie D. Eddington, PhD, dean of the School, as an excellent role model for the profession, Balassone was also a leader in the profession. Balassone was a recipient of the Harvey W. Wiley Award, the nation’s highest honor in the field of drugs, food, and cosmetic law.

“Why are pharmacists always on the Guinness listing of most trusted professions?” Buffington asked. “One of the reasons is that we give everything away.” Buffington said that a national billing model is evolving to make it easier for pharmacists to obtain insurance reimbursement.

Annapolis Advocacy Events, Courier Service Planned

University students, faculty, staff, and alumni can meet members of the Maryland General Assembly in Annapolis and participate in advocacy events on the following dates during the legislature’s 2009 session:

- Jan. 15: School of Medicine Advocacy Day
- Feb. 11: Maryland State Dental Association Advocacy Day
- Feb. 12: Maryland Pharmacy Coalition Advocacy Day
- Feb. 25: School of Nursing Advocacy Day
- Feb. 26: National Association of Social Workers Advocacy Day

For more information, call the University’s Office of Government and Community Affairs to be picked up at noon Tuesdays and Fridays and delivered by 1:45 p.m.

Radio and television stations in the Baltimore and Washington, D.C., areas are also notified when the University is closed or is opening late, but their announcements are not as dependable as information on the campus hot line and Web site.

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Call for Names!
The new building at 620 W. Lexington St., which houses the Offices of Academic Affairs, Administration and Finance, CITTS Web Development, External Affairs, Human Resource Services, Research and Development, and the University of Maryland Baltimore Foundation, Inc., is in need of a name.

Submit your ideas (as many as you wish) to sperez@umaryland.edu by Jan. 30, 2009, for your chance to name the building.

The new name will be announced in the March issue of the VOICE.

GREEN CORNER

NURSING, HEALTH, AND THE ENVIRONMENT MEET IN ARIZONA DESERT

Professor in the Department of Family and Community Health, Barbara Satter, DPFH, MPH, RN, FAAN, and representatives from the environmental health nursing program at the School of Nursing organized a group of nursing leaders representing a range of nursing organizations from across the country to meet in December in Oracle, Ariz. The group is interested in the relationship between the environment and human health and how it relates to individual nursing practices and the nursing profession as a whole.

On the heels of the newly established Environmental Health Principles for Nursing, this group developed a strategic plan to help guide the integration of environmental health into nursing education, nursing practice, research, and advocacy/policy work.

There was a collective recognition that many of the symptoms and diseases that nurses see in patients—increases in asthma, autism, neurological disorders, and cancers—are related directly or indirectly to environmental exposures in homes, workplaces, schools, and communities.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Satter said, “There was great enthusiasm for the work ahead and an ambitious new strategic plan to help guide our activities.”

CAFE

Jan. 9-23: Diggs-Johnson Middle School Art Project. A public exhibit of student artwork. Weise Gallery, Health Sciences and Human Services Library.

Jan. 15: School of Medicine Advocacy Day. (See page 7.)

Feb. 5: Meeting of the School of Pharmacy’s Board of Visitors. 8:30 a.m., Health Sciences Facility II, 6th floor conference room.

Feb. 6: Give Kids a Smile Day. Dental School students offer dental screenings and referrals for follow-up care for children at George Washington Elementary School in Washington Village. Transportation is provided. 9 a.m.-2 p.m., The Dr. Samuel D. Harris National Museum of Dentistry. For more information, call Marc LeVaeu at 410-396-1445.

Feb. 11: Maryland State Dental Association Advocacy Day. (See page 7.)

Feb. 12: Maryland Pharmacy Coalition Advocacy Day. (See page 7.)

Feb. 22: School of Nursing’s Black History Month panel discussion. 4-5:30 p.m., School of Nursing auditorium. For more information, call 6-3767 or visit www.nursing.umaryland.edu/events.

Feb. 25: School of Nursing Advocacy Day. (See page 7.)

Feb. 26: National Association of Social Workers Advocacy Day. (See page 7.)