



The President's Message



When the concept of a formal partnership between our University (UMB) and the University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP) was approved in December, more than a few of my colleagues rolled their eyes. They saw such an alliance as nothing more than political window dressing, something to assuage those in Annapolis who had called for a merger. “Nothing of substance will come from this,” they scoffed.

I said then, and I’m happy to say now, that the skeptics were wrong. And I couldn’t be more delighted. On March 1, the Board of Regents approved an innovative and structured collaboration between the two institutions called the University of Maryland: *MPowering the State*. You think there is no substance to this initiative? Just visit <http://mpowermaryland.com/category/initiatives/>. The proof is all there.

And yes, some of this is still in the formative stage. But a quick look at some of the partnership’s components inspires nothing but optimism. Our alliance will:

- Establish the University of Maryland Ventures, which will take discoveries and innovations from campus laboratories to the marketplace.
- Join both universities’ research efforts at the Institute for Bioscience and Biotechnology Research at the Universities at Shady Grove in Montgomery County. This teams our educational programs in health, law, and human services, with College Park’s STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics), business, and social sciences programs.
- Create a Collaborative School of Public Health that will span both campuses by combining the Master of Public Health (MPH) Program at UMCP and the MPH Program at UMB.
- Develop new educational offerings and activities including the University of Maryland Scholars Program, through which outstanding UMCP undergraduates will engage in research led by top UMB faculty and UMB graduate students will learn in the laboratories of top UMCP faculty.

It’s a win-win for both universities and the state. And this is only the beginning. Overseen by my College Park colleague Wallace D. Loh, PhD, and myself, University of Maryland: *MPowering the State* will leverage the resources of our two great universities to better serve students; attract even more exceptional faculty and researchers; and boost research, technology transfer, and commercialization.

I’d like to take this time to thank steering committee members Bruce Jarrell, MD, FACS, and Pete Gilbert, MSF, from our University and Ann Wylie, PhD, and Michele Eastman from College Park for their diligent efforts in building the comprehensive framework for this partnership in but a few short weeks. And I look forward to working with many of you in the University community as we turn this promising concept into an innovative reality.

Still have questions or concerns? Please join us for a special *MPowering the State* Q&A on Wednesday, March 28, from noon to 1 p.m. at the School of Nursing. The aforementioned members of the steering committee and myself will be on hand to address your questions. I hope to see you there.

All the best,

Jay A. Perman, MD
President

Laurels

CAMPUSWIDE

Two dozen staff members from the University have been nominated for this year's Staff Awards from the University System of Maryland (USM) Board of Regents. The awards recognize excellence among staff members throughout USM, which includes 12 institutions in the state. Winners will be announced in June.

Nominees for Exceptional Contribution to the Institution are **Jennifer Cox, MSW (SOM)**; **Marjorie Fass, MA (SON)**; **Sally Forte (SOM)**; **Nancy Gordon (Communications and Public Affairs)**; **June Green (SOM)**; **Susan Hobbs (SOM)**; **Mary Alice Hohing (SOL)**; **Joyce Johnson (SOM)**; **Jami Kasco (SOM)**; **Diane Kaufman (SOP)**; **Katherine Martin (SOD)**; **Michael McCrea (SOM)**; **Sandra Ott (SOM)**; **Dennis Paffrath (Research and Development)**; **Bruce Wilcox (SOL)**; and **Nancy Zappala, RN (SOM)**.

Extraordinary Public Service nominees are **Brenda Ali (SOM)**; **Brian Hockenberry, MHA (SOM)**; **Jean Marie Roth (SOM)**; **Teresa Schmiedeler, JD (SOL)**; and **Arthur Talbert (SON)**.

Rose Rizza (SOM) is nominated for Effectiveness and Efficiency.

Nominees for Outstanding Service to Students in an Academic or Residential Environment are **Katharine Dever, MPS (SON)**; **Thomas McHugh (SOM)**; and **Yvonne McMorris (SOL)**.

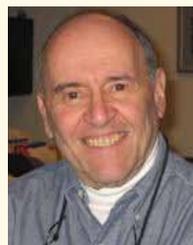
The Daily Record newspaper's 2012 Influential Marylanders list includes **Michael Greenberger, JD**, professor at the Francis King Carey School of Law and director of the Center for Health and Homeland Security; **Elijah Saunders, MD '60**, clinical professor and head of the Section of Hypertension at the School of Medicine; and **Francis X. Kelly Jr.**, chair of the University's Making an Impact Worldwide capital campaign. The honorees will be recognized on March 29.

Members of the Center for Information Technology Services (CITS) conducted three presentations at the EDUCAUSE Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference in Baltimore Jan. 11 to 13. **James Leoni, MS**, **Joseph Mancuso**, and **Matthew Riedel** presented "Leverage the Cloud + Leverage in-House + Improve Security = Save Money"; **Brian Coats, MS**, presented "Self-Service Identity: Join the Community"; and **Stephen Brown** and **Mancuso** presented "Unifying Disparate Campus Email Systems."

SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY

Warren Brill, DMD, clinical associate professor, will become president-elect of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry during the organization's annual meeting in San Diego in May.

Student **Lisa D'Affronte** was congratulated recently by Dean Christian S. Stohler, DMD, DrMedDent, for earning four merit scholarships. D'Affronte received Dean's Excellence, Gaylord, Russell Gigliotti Memorial, and Ronald M. Starr Family scholarships.



Ronald Dubner

Ronald Dubner, DDS, PhD, professor, has been named a keynote speaker for the International Association for Dental Research general session in Brazil in June.



Mark Reynolds

Mark Reynolds, DDS, PhD, professor and chair of the Department of Periodontics, has been chosen to be a keynote speaker at the American Association of Periodontology annual meeting in Los Angeles this fall. Reynolds will speak about treatment of inflammatory periodontal disease.

FRANCIS KING CAREY SCHOOL OF LAW

Media company On Being a Black Lawyer has named **Phoebe A. Haddon, JD, LL.M.**, dean and professor, among the 100 most influential African-American attorneys in the country. Haddon is one of 24 deans on the list, which was published in February. The 100 honorees were recognized during a reception in Washington, D.C., on Feb. 29.

Student **Jennifer Siegel** won first place in the American Bar Association Health Law Section's annual law student writing competition. Her paper "Advancing Ethical Research Practices in the Military" began as a project for the law school's bioethics seminar. The award includes publication in the magazine *The Health Lawyer*, attendance at a Health Law Section conference in San Diego, and an honorarium.

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE



Edson Albuquerque

Professors **Edson Albuquerque, MD, PhD**, and **Louis DeTolla, VMD, PhD, MS**, and assistant professor **Edna Pereira, PhD**, received a four-year, \$19.3 million grant from Countervail Corp./Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority titled "Nerve

Agent Countermeasure for Downwind and Worried Well Populations."



Abdu Azad

Abdu Azad, PhD, PharmD, MPH, professor, was the 2011 recipient of the Harry Hoogstraal Medal for Outstanding Achievement in Medical Entomology from the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene. The award is named for a late U.S. Navy researcher who was

considered the world's top expert on tick-borne diseases.



Claudia Baquet

Claudia Baquet, MD, MPH, professor, associate dean for policy and planning, and director of the Bioethics and Health Disparities Research Center, was appointed to serve a four-year term as a member of the Center for Scientific Review's Societal and Ethical Issues in Research

Study Section.



Maureen Black

Maureen Black, PhD, MA, the John A. Scholl, MD, and Mary Louise Scholl, MD, Professor of Pediatrics and director of the Division of Growth and Nutrition, was the 2011 recipient of the University of Maryland Clinical and Translational Science Institute's Excellence in Mentoring award.



Toby Chai

Toby Chai, MD, the John D. Young Jr. Professor in Urology, was chosen to serve a four-year term as an assistant editor for *The Journal of Urology*.



Howard Dubowitz

"The Safe Environment for Every Kid Model: Impact on Pediatric Primary Care Professionals," written by **Howard Dubowitz, MB, ChB**, professor; **Wendy Lane, MD, MPH**, assistant professor; **Laurence Magder, PhD, MPH**, professor; and others, was published in the journal *Pediatrics*.

C. McCollister Evarts, MD, clinical professor, is the 2012 president of the OMeGA Medical Grants Association.

Sameh Fayek, MB, BCh, assistant professor, is the lead author of the article “Ureteral Stents Are Associated With Reduced Risk of Ureteral Complications After Kidney Transplantation: A Large Single Center Experience,” which was published in the journal *Transplantation*. Contributing authors include associate professors **Abdolreza Haririan, MD, MPH**; **Matthew Cooper, MD**; **Rolf Barth, MD**; and **Benjamin Philosophe, MD, PhD**; and professors **Eugene Schweitzer, MD**; **Jonathan Bromberg, MD, PhD**; and **Stephen Bartlett, MD**.

Erika Feller, MD, assistant professor and medical director of the Heart Transplant Program at the University of Maryland Medical Center (UMMC); **Jennifer Brown, MD**, assistant instructor; and **Elaine Pelc, MS**, clinical dietitian at UMMC, have published *Kathy’s Cookbook*, a collection of heart-healthy recipes and cooking tips for heart transplant patients. The book is the completion of a project by Kathy Brown, a UMMC heart transplant patient who died in 2010. Jennifer Brown is Kathy Brown’s daughter-in-law.



Richard Goldberg

Richard Goldberg, PhD, associate professor, was the recipient of the 2011 Armin Loeb Award from the U.S. Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association. The award recognizes excellence in psychiatric rehabilitation study.

Brajesh Lal, MD, associate professor and vascular surgeon at the University of Maryland Medical Center, has presented two-year findings on restenosis rates from an analysis of the Carotid Revascularization Endarterectomy Versus Stenting Trial. The findings were presented in February at the American Stroke Association’s international conference in New Orleans.



Philip Mackowiak

Philip Mackowiak, MD, MBA, professor and vice chair of the Department of Medicine, was appointed president-elect of the American Clinical and Climatological Association. His term begins in October.

Tony Passaniti, PhD, associate professor, is the senior author of “Glucose-Activated RUNX2 Phosphorylation Promotes Endothelial Cell Proliferation and an Angiogenic Phenotype,” which was a featured article in the *Journal of Cellular Biochemistry*.

Teri Robinson, office manager in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology, was named the University’s Employee of the Month for December 2011.



Devinder Singh

Devinder Singh, MD, assistant professor, was named to the board of directors of Changing Children’s Lives, Inc. Singh has traveled with the organization to repair more than 100 cleft lips and palates in other countries.



Soren Snitker

“Physical Activity Attenuates the Influence of FTO Variants on Obesity Risk: A Meta-Analysis of 218,166 Adults and 19,268 Children,” written by **Soren Snitker, MD, PhD**, associate professor; **Mao Fu, PhD, MBBS**, assistant professor; and others, was published in the journal *PLoS Medicine*.



Michael Terrin

Michael Terrin, MD, CM, MPH, professor, received a five-year, \$12.6 million grant from the National Institutes of Health titled “Non-Invasive Treatment of Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Clinical Trial.”

SCHOOL OF NURSING



Jane Kapustin

Jane Kapustin, PhD, RN, CRNP, BC-ADM, FAANP, associate professor and assistant dean for the doctor of nursing practice and master's programs, has been appointed a member of the Health Care Delivery Reform Subcommittee of the Maryland Health Care Reform Coordinating Council. The appointment was made by **Joshua Sharfstein, MD**, state secretary of health and mental hygiene.



Kathryn Lothschuetz Montgomery

Kathryn Lothschuetz Montgomery, PhD, RN, NEA-BC, assistant professor and associate dean for strategic partnerships and initiatives, has been chosen as the Boise State University Nursing Leadership Scholar for 2012.

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY



Nicole Brandt

Nicole Brandt, PharmD, associate professor, has been elected to the National Academies of Practice. The nonprofit, interdisciplinary organization of health care practitioners and scholars advises public policymakers on health care issues.



Youjin "Cathy" Chang

Student **Youjin "Cathy" Chang** has been chosen to attend the University of Cambridge's 2012 Science Summer Schools research program.



Heather Congdon



Hoai-An Truong

Heather Congdon, PharmD, CACP, CDE, assistant professor and assistant dean for Shady Grove, and **Hoai-An Truong, PharmD '05, MPH**, assistant professor and assistant director of the Experiential Learning Program, received a Life-Saving Patient Safety Award and a Performance Award from the federal Health Resources and Services Administration's Patient Safety and Clinical Pharmacy Services Collaborative.



Pamela Crowe

Pamela Crowe, director of facilities and laboratory services, was named the University's Employee of the Month for November 2011.



Nicole Derr

Nicole Derr, grants coordinator in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, was chosen as the University's Employee of the Month for January.



Joga Gobburu

Joga Gobburu, PhD, MBA, FCP, professor, has been invited to join the School of Medicine's General Clinical Research Center Advisory Committee.



Jeffrey Gonzales

Jeffrey Gonzales, PharmD, assistant professor, received a citation from the Society of Critical Care Medicine.



Alexander MacKerell

Alexander MacKerell, PhD, Grollman-Glick Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences and director of the Computer-Aided Drug Design Center, received a patent for “Inhibitors of the S100-p53 Protein-Protein Interaction and Method of Inhibiting Cancer Employing the Same.”



Taryn Merchant

Student **Taryn Merchant** has received the 2012 Jay L. Pollock Supreme Undergraduate Award from the Alpha Zeta Omega Pharmaceutical Fraternity.

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK



Karen Hopkins

Karen Hopkins, PhD, MSW, associate professor, has been elected to the Society for Social Work and Research board of directors. Her three-year term began Feb. 1.



Michael Lindsey

Michael Lindsey, PHD, MSW, MPH, associate professor, was awarded a two-year National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Mental Health research grant for the project “Targeted Intervention to Increase MH Treatment Among Depressed Black Adolescents.” The

project will examine the feasibility and acceptability of the Making Connections Intervention, and will provide preliminary data on the intervention.



Kelley Macmillan

Kelley Macmillan, PhD, MSW, clinical assistant professor and chair of the aging specialization, has received a three-year award to develop and evaluate a policy and practice initiative and to continue competency-based training for the Maryland Department of Human

Resources’ Office of Adult Services.

Co-writers of the article “Lost Leavers: Uncovering the Circumstances of Those Without Welfare and Without Work,” published in the journal *Families in Society*, include **Pamela Ovwigho, PhD**, former research director at the Family Welfare Research and Training Group (FWRTG); **Nicholas Kolupanowich, MS**, research associate at FWRTG; and **Catherine Born, PhD, MSW**, research associate professor and FWRTG director.

Questions and Answers

Since there was no group Q&A meeting in February, the topics below came from questions submitted to Dr. Perman and his leadership team at <http://um.umaryland.edu/president/ask/>.

QUESTION:

I believe the campus currently has two facilities staff available on off-hours and weekends for dealing with problems with approximately 40 campus buildings, many of them aging and housing mission-critical equipment. Do you think this is sufficient staffing and, if not, are there any plans to beef up staffing and resources here?

ANSWER:

While we try to keep at least two facilities staff on campus at all times, the reality is that with vacations and illness, on many days we are down to one person on a shift at night and weekends. We recognize this as a vulnerability and are working with campus leadership to try to identify funding to add staffing and supervision to second- and third-shift coverage. We also are exploring moving some of our preventive maintenance activities, such as filter changing, to the second shift, where it will be less disruptive. This also would provide more people to respond and assist in an off-hour emergency.

**QUESTION:**

I was wondering if it would be possible to build a bridge or a tunnel between the Medical School Teaching Facility (MSTF) and the BioPark.

I am an immunologist in the Department of Surgery. Our lab and activities are located in MSTF, but we attend several seminars in BioPark buildings. In addition, two of our collaborators/colleagues (Dr. Strome and Dr. Bromberg) and a company (Gliknik) with which we collaborate are located in the BioPark. We share samples, reagents, and equipment. When the weather is nice, it is no problem. But rain, ice, and snow make the access between our buildings difficult.

ANSWER:

Since the beginning of the BioPark in 2003, pedestrian crossing of Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard (MLK) has been the subject of much discussion and study. In addition to weather, pedestrian safety is a major concern as traffic moves at high speeds and pedestrians must cross the street while cars are turning onto MLK.

A bridge over MLK has been considered but rejected for several reasons. Site constraints such as elevation changes, the loading dock for Pharmacy Hall, zero setbacks at MSTF, etc. make a bridge challenging and very costly. At this time, only a bridge that was accessible to the general public would be supported by the state. A public access bridge could not run between a UM building and a BioPark building because the buildings are not open to

the public nor are they open 24 hours, seven days a week.

Thus, pedestrian crossing at MLK and Baltimore Street is being addressed by modifying traffic patterns. MLK will be modified to provide northbound vehicles access to the BioPark and West Baltimore Street from Fremont Avenue. This should reduce the conflict between pedestrians and vehicles at Baltimore Street and MLK. Other intersection improvements that are being worked on include four-way exclusive stops for pedestrian crossing and restriping of the crosswalks.

**QUESTION:**

We have received the USM Internal Audit information and the policy email about whistle-blowing. Where did all this come from? It seems almost too much of a coincidence that it is coming at a time when the UMB-UMCP merger is afoot.

Would it be possible to clarify the origins and intended purpose of this internal audit office, and also address questions inside people's minds about how it may be related to the UMB-UMCP merger? There's just too much potential for trouble, as I could easily see abuse of the entity (i.e., people getting co-workers in trouble, those who get reported or audited wearing a red hat, and possibly being the ones who get fired first when the merger happens).

ANSWER:

There is no relationship between the presence of the USM Internal Audit Office, the Whistle-Blower Policy, and the UMB-UMCP merger study. The items are unrelated. The merger study was requested of the Board of Regents during last spring's legislative session. The USM Internal Audit Office has been present for years. The campus Whistle-Blower Policy was adopted as part of a sound management structure and process to ensure that faculty, staff, and students have a safe, protected, and direct process to report issues of potential fraud and abuse, and violations of compliance obligations. Further, reporters are protected from retaliation as described in the policy, VIII-7.11(B).



QUESTION:

Can something be done about the rampant inflation on student fees for graduate PhD students (Graduate Program in Life Sciences)? Last year they were about \$400 or so, I was told. Last semester I was at \$750 and next semester mine reads over \$800. This does not appear to be included in our stipend calculation and is a burden to every student who does not have a silver spoon to fall back on.

ANSWER:

The issue of keeping tuition, student fees, and student debt as low as possible is an issue that is vitally important on this campus as well as those across the country. Equally impor-

tant is the University's and the University System of Maryland's work with the governor and the General Assembly to ensure that funding for higher education remains at adequate levels.

Unfortunately, we are all feeling the pinch of higher costs and the recession. However, in the proposed tuition and fees put forth to the Board of Regents for the upcoming year, there is only a very modest increase proposed for the Transportation Fee. <http://www.umaryland.edu/institutionalresearch/tuition/FY2013TuitionandFeesPendingBORApproval012612.pdf>

**Westside Update**

Dr. Perman and Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake are co-chairing the Westside Task Force. We are offering periodic updates in *The President's Message*. The following comes from the task force's March 2012 report.

The Maryland Transit Administration completed the removal of the light rail's catenary structures on Howard Street. The view up and down the Howard Street corridor is now far less cluttered between Baltimore and Franklin streets. The new Lexington Market light rail platform will be placed into service on March 19.

The mayor and Dr. Perman held a news conference on Feb. 22 to launch "Get Fresh Lexington," a healthy foods initiative. The mayor unveiled new carryout menus and signage at Lexington Market, which serves more than 2.6 million customers every year.

Tim Blasko was installed as the new security chief for Lexington Market, Inc., on Feb. 1. A retired Baltimore City police officer with 20 years of public safety experience, Blasko spent the last five years with the Baltimore Police Department's Central District Drug Unit.

The School of Social Work will conduct a usage survey of Lexington Market's patrons in March. The analysis should determine where the market's demand generators are, and also will help the market identify areas of improvement. The final report will be completed in May.

Panera Bread opened a location at 413 W. Baltimore St. on Feb. 23. According to its marketing team, attendance at the Westside grand opening was the eighth largest in Panera's history.

The Arrow Parking garage at Clay and Howard streets got an extreme makeover, using matching money from the city and the Downtown Partnership.

Showtime: Featuring cameo appearances by Mayor Rawlings-Blake and Dr. Perman, *Howard and Lex: The Way We Roll* kicks off March 24 with subsequent shows of the heroine taking a trip down the Westside's memory lane on roller skates on March 25, March 31, and April 1 at 228 N. Howard St. (the old Stewart's Building) at 3 p.m. \$5 tickets are available at www.brownpapertickets.com/event/225171.