



DEAN'S MESSAGE: What's On My Mind

What's on my mind this month is leadership. *New York Times* columnist and author Thomas Friedman has said, "Those who create value through leadership, relationships and creativity will transform their field." Each of us has the ability to lead and to collectively move the School of Medicine toward top-tier status.

In the midst of celebrating an exciting bicentennial year, we are also starting the academic year and a third century for the School of Medicine, all of which provide opportunities for enhanced leadership. Let us exercise our responsibility to the fullest without hesitation, ambivalence or equivocation.

What is required of us if we are to soar to greater heights, together? We all must be committed and motivated. We must find creative and unique ways within our respective areas to achieve measurable and incremental levels of excellence. We must work effectively and collaboratively as a collegial body and not become distracted by day-to-day issues.

All actions must be inspired by the mission: *The University of Maryland School of Medicine is dedicated to providing excellence in biomedical education, basic and clinical research, quality patient care and service to improve the health of the citizens of Maryland and beyond.*

Our vision is: *To achieve international eminence as an academic institution in undergraduate education, graduate education, postgraduate and continuing professional education, basic and clinical research, clinical practice and service, public health and prevention, and responsiveness to the community, and to be recognized for our excellence and innovation in education, research and patient care.*

We will accomplish our vision through the recruitment and retention of talented, culturally diverse faculty members, staff, trainees and students utilizing interdisciplinary approaches, inter-professional relationships, partnerships with our local and regional communities and collaboration with industry.

The School of Medicine has 200 years of history, traditions and excellence. We have a strong curriculum. Our students' MCATs and GPAs are significantly above the national average. Our grant and contract support continues to grow in spite of the decrease in NIH funding. We have a highly diverse and competitive faculty, staff and students. We have magnet centers that target diseases of high morbidity and mortality. In addition, we are fortunate to be close to Washington, DC, which affords access to federal agencies, especially the NIH. What's more, Maryland is the most prosperous state, with the highest average income in the nation.

Consider the extraordinary courage and determination required to create the University of Maryland School of Medicine and maintain 200 years of progress. Despite wars, pandemics, lack of money, and political maneuvering, the men and women who came before us were tenacious in supporting our mission. Now, it is our turn. I have every confidence that we will rise to the challenge, together. In the relentless pursuit of excellence, I am

Sincerely yours,

E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA
Vice President for Medical Affairs, University of Maryland
John Z. and Akiko K. Bowers Distinguished Professor and
Dean, School of Medicine

Baseball and the Bicentennial: School of Medicine Celebrates at Camden Yards

Nearly 1,000 friends of the School of Medicine packed the upper decks of Camden Yards September 6 to cheer on the Baltimore Orioles against the Boston Red Sox. The evening was the latest celebration of the school's bicentennial, and included Dean Reece throwing out the ceremonial first pitch. As part of the event, medical students manned a booth on the Eutaw Street concourse, where they handed out School of Medicine pins and offered a unique glimpse into medical education with a display of plastinized body parts from their anatomy classroom. In keeping with the bicentennial's historical theme, the Orioles dressed in the uniforms of the Negro League's Baltimore



Dean Reece showed great form as he threw out the game's ceremonial first pitch.

Black Sox, to whom they paid tribute before the game. The Orioles were ahead or tied through most of the game, but even the



Before the game, Donna Motley from the Department of Medicine had the opportunity to go on the field, where she met Orioles outfielder Freddie Bynum.

cheers of the School of Medicine crowd couldn't save the hometown team from a ninth-inning Red Sox rally that put them ahead of the O's 7-6. Despite the loss, a good time was had by all and the many Orioles fans in attendance had the opportunity to learn about our bicentennial celebration.

Med Students for the Day

Members of Congress, the Maryland General Assembly and other state officials got a taste of life as a medical student in a special program at the School of Medicine held on August 13 and 22, 2007. The program was Project Medical Education (PME), an initiative by the Association of American Medical Colleges to educate policymakers about the process of medical education, the benefits it provides, its complex funding mechanisms and the essential role of government in providing financial support.

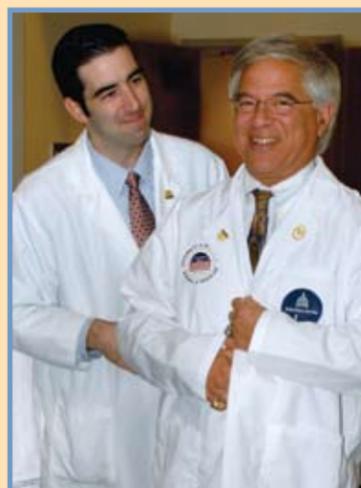
Maryland Congressman John Sarbanes was one of the participants. "The University of Maryland as a system and institution, particularly with respect to its medical school, is renowned in very positive and impressive ways," he said. "I came to understand more of what's happening here. To see and hear about the plans for the future is really important." Sarbanes added he was especially interested in Dr. Robert Gallo's Institute of Human Virology and the new Institute for Genome Sciences, headed by Dr. Claire Fraser-Liggett.

The day kicked off with a white coat ceremony, where the participants donned the traditional garb of medicine and assumed the role of medical students. Then it was off to class, which started—as the first year of medical school traditionally does—in the gross anatomy lab. Larry Anderson, PhD, professor, Department of Anatomy & Neurobiology, explained the importance of the 10-week anatomy course for first year students. "Not only do the dissections done in class help students learn about the structures in the body, but this is their very first patient," Anderson said. "They learn from the very first day to respect every patient."

PME participants toured medical school labs, classrooms and patient



PME participants in the simulation center



Delegate Samuel Rosenberg, right, receives his white coat from Joe Martinez, MD, assistant dean for Student Affairs.

care areas, seeing first hand the costly technology required to educate medical students and treat patients in the 21st century. Of particular interest to the "students" was the presentation by Adrian Park, MD, professor, Department of Surgery, who showed off the school's simulation center, where aspiring surgeons use virtual reality to practice their skills.

Steven Czinn, MD, professor and chair, Department of Pediatrics, and Hugh Mighty, MD, associate professor and chair, Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology & Reproductive Sciences, led tours of the University of Maryland Medical Center's NICU and discussed physician reimbursement.

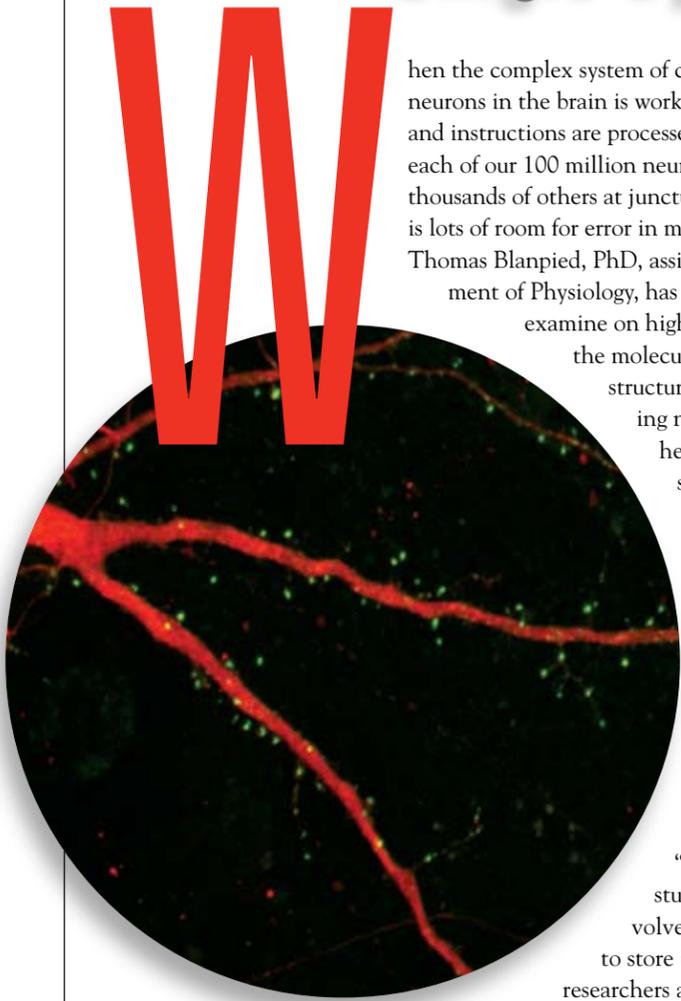
Legislators also learned about the busy life of faculty physicians, who must simultaneously treat patients, educate students and conduct research. Scott Strome, MD, professor and chair of the Department of Otorhinolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery, explained how he manages to juggle

administrative duties with these other responsibilities.

There were also discussions on health disparities, the impending shortage of doctors and the importance of state funding for new research facilities to keep the School of Medicine competitive. The day ended with an opportunity to speak with real-life medical students, not only about their futures but about the future of medicine as well.

The legislators and other guests were enthusiastic about their medical school experience. "It makes sense for policy-makers to have a deeper understanding of medical education," said Sarbanes. "This idea of taking one through the years of medical school in a day is a terrific way to give that extra level of understanding."

Researcher Uses New Tools to Investigate Single Synapses in Living Neurons



A confocal image of synapses on a [living] neuron.

When the complex system of communication between neurons in the brain is working properly, information and instructions are processed seamlessly. But with each of our 100 million neurons making contact with thousands of others at junctures called synapses, there is lots of room for error in messaging transmission. Thomas Blanpied, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Physiology, has developed new tools to examine on high-resolution microscopes the molecules and molecular superstructures at single synapses in living neurons. His approach may help identify exactly how synapses function improperly in psychiatric and neurological disorders. “We understand how neurons send information to each other, and what has been discovered over the last few decades is how those connections change and affect how information is stored,” said Dr. Blanpied. “There is a huge industry studying the molecules involved when synapses change to store information. Many researchers are working to develop

drugs that target particular molecules to help people remember information or to help them forget painful experiences.”

The basic mechanisms that contribute to changes in synapses, which help us remember information, are also mechanisms that go awry in a huge array of psychiatric diseases and neurological disorders. “Alzheimer’s is a pathological process leading to cell death. However, some of the most debilitating cognitive problems in Alzheimer’s patients begin long before neurons in the brain are actually dying from the disease,” said Dr. Blanpied. “Those problems probably have to do with synapses not being able to function normally, store information properly, or adapt and change as we age. Amazingly, it seems that some of the same mechanisms are at work in very different disorders, ranging from addiction to schizophrenia and autism.”

Currently, Dr. Blanpied is researching how single synapses work and the molecular machines that allow them to control the strength of these contacts between neighboring cells. He uses optical imaging techniques to create extremely high resolution pictures of the structure and molecular organization of singular synapses. “We use green fluorescent protein derived from jelly fish to look at specific proteins in cells from the brain using a confocal fluorescence microscope,” he stated. “It’s an existing technology that we are using to examine how individual molecules at synapses are organized and how those molecules are involved in synaptic plasticity.”

In July, Dr. Blanpied’s use of fluorescence and confocal microscopy earned him the 2007 Daniel X. Freedman Award from NARSAD: The Mental Health Research Association, for outstanding basic research achievement by a young investigator. He’s also recently received an R01 grant from the National Institute of Mental Health. “This support will help me work toward creating as high a resolution view as possible of a single synapse,” he added. “I’m hopeful that we will be able to develop a cache of new tools to examine what is going on in a large number of psychiatric and neurological disorders.” 



Thomas Blanpied, PhD

IHV Receives \$15M from the Gates Foundation

The School of Medicine’s Institute of Human Virology (IHV) has received a \$15 million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to further develop a promising HIV/AIDS vaccine candidate created by IHV that, in early studies, has shown potential to provide broad protection against HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

The \$15 million, five-year grant is part of the Gates Foundation’s Collaboration for AIDS Vaccine Discovery, an international network of research consortia focused on accelerating the pace of HIV vaccine development.

“This grant reinforces what Marylanders have long known: that our state is a world leader in biotechnology, and more importantly, a leader in finding a vaccine that can help the thousands of people affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic,” Governor Martin O’Malley said at a July 31 press conference at the State House in Annapolis. “I want to thank the Gates Foundation for funding this research, and Dr. Gallo for his important work to help us make AIDS a thing of the past.”

“Our ultimate goal is a vaccine that will prevent HIV transmission. In early studies, this vaccine has already demonstrated that it has promise to produce an immune system response to various HIV strains. We are very happy that the Gates Foundation is supporting our efforts,” said Robert C. Gallo, MD, the founder and director of IHV who co-discovered HIV and developed the first HIV blood test. Dr. Gallo is also a professor in the Departments of Medicine and Microbiology & Immunology.

“This grant will allow us to further test and develop this promising vaccine candidate. I want to acknowledge the superb work by IHV’s Tony DeVico, PhD, and George Lewis, PhD, which has brought us this far on the vaccine,” said Dr. Gallo. Dr. DeVico is a professor in the Departments of Medicine and Microbiology & Immunology; Dr. Lewis is a professor in the Department of Microbiology & Immunology.

HIV’s ability to mutate rapidly into numerous strains has long

frustrated efforts by the medical research community to develop an effective vaccine. Previous attempts by others to develop a vaccine have been unsuccessful because they were unable to stop a broad range of HIV strains. IHV scientists are encouraged by

“Our ultimate goal is a vaccine that will prevent HIV transmission.”

their potential vaccine, and the Gates Foundation grant will allow them to conduct further studies on their vaccine so that they can better understand how the vaccine works against HIV.

“I am extremely pleased that the extraordinary research underway at IHV continues to be recognized and supported,” said William E. Kirwan, PhD, chancellor of the University System of Maryland. “We are deeply grateful to the Gates Foundation for this generous grant and we laud Bob Gallo and IHV for their strong commitment to resolving some of society’s most difficult medical issues.”

“The School of Medicine congratulates the Institute of Human Virology on this strong vote of support from the Gates Foundation,” says Dean E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA. “This prestigious grant again underscores how IHV continues to fulfill its mission of turning cutting-edge research into real benefits for people in need.”

The grant is being awarded to the University of Maryland Biotechnology Institute (UMBI), IHV’s former parent university. The grant will be transferred to the School of Medicine as a function of IHV’s transition from UMBI to the School of Medicine on July 1, 2007. 



(L-R) USM Chancellor William “Brit” Kirwan, PhD, Governor Martin O’Malley, Robert Gallo, MD, and Dean E. Albert Reece at the Annapolis announcement of a \$15 million grant to the IHV from the Gates Foundation.

Surgeons First in State to Offer Disc Replacement Surgery with New FDA-approved Artificial Disc

University of Maryland School of Medicine surgeons were the first in Maryland to offer a newly approved artificial cervical disc to patients with degenerative disc disease in the neck. Studies have shown that replacing a damaged disc with the new stainless steel device is more effective than spinal fusion surgery in alleviating neck and arm pain and preserving range of motion. The first procedure was performed by Francois Aldrich, MD, associate professor, Department of Neurosurgery, in August.

“This new artificial disc is a big step forward in treating patients suffering from neck and arm pain because of cervical disc disease. It offers patients a remarkably effective option that alleviates pain and also preserves more of their mobility,” stated Dr. Aldrich. Aldrich is training surgeons locally and from other parts of the country on how to implant the new disc.

The Prestige artificial cervical disc, made by Medtronic Sofamor Danek, was recently approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to treat cervical degenerative disc disease, one of the most common causes of neck and arm pain. The device, which

was tested in a clinical trial with 541 patients across the country, is the first cervical disc to receive FDA approval.

Dr. Aldrich said, “In a large nationwide study, patients who were treated with the artificial disc had a better outcome and function compared to those who had anterior spinal fusion, which has been the gold standard of care for degenerative disease in the neck. Many of the patients were also able to return to work sooner after having this new procedure.”

More than 60 percent of people over the age of 40 have some evidence of degeneration in the discs in their necks, most commonly caused by aging. As people get older, their discs shrink and lose the ability to cushion the vertebrae, causing the bones to rub and pinch nerves in the neck. More than 200,000 people have cervical spinal fusion surgery each year to alleviate the resulting arm and neck pain.

The cervical spine consists of seven vertebrae, or bones, which are separated by shock-absorbing discs, or cushions, that are made up largely of water, which allow people to bend and rotate their necks. The standard treatment is to remove the damaged disc to relieve pressure on the spinal cord or nerve roots to alleviate the pain and then fuse together two or more vertebrae, using bone grafts and a metal plate. This procedure stabilizes the spine at that level, Dr. Aldrich said, but also limits the patient’s ability to move the neck where the fusion was done. The fusion may also put added stress on the adjacent discs, which may cause further deterioration down the road.

The Prestige artificial disc may be a good alternative for patients who have only one damaged disc, rather than multiple discs, and also experience pain, numbness and tingling in the arms as well as neck pain, Dr. Aldrich said.

The artificial disc consists of two main pieces of stainless steel with a patented ball-and-trough (groove) design that allows for a full range of motion, functioning much like a joint. The device fits into the space where the damaged disc was removed and is attached by screws to the vertebrae above and below it.

The first patient in Maryland to receive the artificial cervical disc was Meryl L. Eddy, an attorney at the University of Maryland, Baltimore. Eddy was one of only 30 people in the United States to have the device implanted since it was approved by the FDA on July 16, 2007. Eddy says she is delighted that she has almost instantaneously regained strength and mobility in her right arm, which had been severely limited prior to surgery. 



The Prestige artificial cervical disc



(L-R) Artificial cervical disc recipient Meryl Eddy, and her surgeon Francois Aldrich, MD.

New Laboratory Will Develop Rapid Diagnostic Tests for Infant Infections

Leaders of the University of Maryland Hospital for Children and the R Baby Foundation, Inc. dedicated a new laboratory in August to develop rapid tests for diagnosing viral infectious diseases in infants. The laboratory was created with \$110,000 in funding from the R Baby Foundation, established by Andrew and Phyllis Rabinowitz of New Jersey. The couple’s nine-day-old daughter, Rebecca, died in New Jersey in July 2006 from a misdiagnosed viral infection. The 400-square-foot lab, which will be located in the School of Medicine’s Health Sciences Facility II building, will be named the Rebecca Rabinowitz Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory.

“Having grown up in the Baltimore area, I am thrilled with the partnership between the University of Maryland Hospital for Children and the R Baby Foundation,” said Phyllis Rabinowitz. “I feel confident the new Rebecca Rabinowitz Laboratory will enable physicians to detect infant infections more rapidly and that we will help many families avoid the tragedy that Andrew and I endured. Together, we will save the lives of countless babies.”

Andrew and Phyllis Rabinowitz established the R Baby Foundation after the death of their daughter to promote research on viral and other infections in



Andrew and Phyllis Rabinowitz at the opening of the Rebecca Rabinowitz Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory, named for their daughter.

newborns and to raise money for treatment, training and life-saving equipment.

“Our society’s remarkable record of success in the fight against infectious diseases is well known,” said James Nataro, MD, PhD, professor, Department of Pediatrics, and head of the Division of Pediatric Infectious Diseases at the Hospital for Children. “Still, many babies die each year from infections. Although we can diagnose and treat most of these infections, it can be extremely difficult for even the most experienced doctors to identify the cause early enough to initiate effective treatment. Physicians need a system to rapidly identify the many microorganisms that cause serious infections in infants,” added Dr. Nataro, who is leading the development of the lab.

“The R Baby Foundation’s donation is an

incredibly valuable gift, not only for Baltimore but for the entire state,” said Steven Czinn, MD, professor and chair of the Department of Pediatrics, and head of the Hospital for Children. “With this funding and the establishment of the laboratory, we will be able to educate the community at large about a risk that is unique to premature and young infants.” 

Radiation Oncology Announces New Endowed Professorship

On June 25, 2007, an investiture ceremony was held to name Cedric X. Yu, DSc, to the inaugural Carl M. Mansfield, MD, Endowed Professorship in Radiation Oncology. The professorship was established by Krishnan Suthanthiran, president and founder of Virginia-based Best Medical International, a multinational company specializing in radiotherapy products. It was named in honor of Dr. Carl Mansfield, with whom Suthanthiran worked to develop a product line targeting prostate cancer.

The ceremony kicked off a new School of Medicine tradition of honoring faculty members who receive endowed professorships with a special medal to recognize their accomplishment. The front of the medal features the image of co-founder and first dean, Dr. John Beale Davidge, and historic Davidge Hall. The back of the medal lists the four tenets of the School of Medicine’s mission—

education, research, patient care and service—as well as the official name of the endowed professorship.

Dr. Mansfield received a replica of the medal that was presented to Dr. Yu.

“The endowed professorship and medal recognize the

significant impact that you have had upon this institution and the field of radiation oncology,” Dean E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA, told Dr. Mansfield at the ceremony.

Dean Reece further stated to Dr. Yu, “To be named to an endowed professorship is extremely prestigious and acknowledges your career accomplishments and contributions to our academic community. Your peers and colleagues throughout the School of Medicine widely agree that you are most deserving of this honor.”

For more information on establishing an endowed professorship in someone’s honor please contact the Office of Development at 6-8503. 



(L-R) Dean E. Albert Reece, MD; award recipient Cedric Yu, DSc; and William Regine, MD, chair, Department of Radiation Oncology.

Graduate Students Spend Summer with NASA

Umut Aypar and Yijun Li, graduate students in the Human Genetics and Genomic Medicine track of the Molecular Medicine Program at the School of Medicine, have always been interested in outer space and space flight. The two students fostered that interest this summer when they spent several weeks in New York participating in the fourth annual NASA Space Radiation Summer School in the U.S. Department of Energy's Brookhaven National Laboratory. Aypar and Li worked in Brookhaven Lab's Medical Department and the NASA Space Radiation Laboratory—a unique facility that simulates the harsh radiation environment of outer space—to study the possible risks astronauts may face during future long-term space flights.

"While there is a wealth of data describing the effects of conventional radiation like x-rays, the same is not true for the types of radiation present in space. It is essential to define the potential risks of exposure to space radiation and, if necessary, develop effective countermeasures to permit safe missions of longer durations than in the past," said Peter

Guida, medical department liaison scientist at Brookhaven Lab.

Fifteen graduate students, post-doctoral fellows and working scientists were selected from hundreds of applications to participate in this year's summer school. The intensive, three-week course consisted of classroom activities and scientific experiments, and students worked side-by-side with top space scientists.

Aypar and Li currently work in

the radiation oncology research lab of William F. Morgan, PhD, professor in the Department of Radiation Oncology and director of the department's radiation oncology research laboratories. They are researching radio-protectants, which could be used to protect patients from exposure to radiation during medical procedures such as X-rays. "In my journey as a graduate student, I plan to become skilled at many aspects of radiation science," said Aypar, a second year graduate student who is from Cyprus. "I have a lot to learn, but the NASA program helped to improve my radiobiology knowledge and gave me exposure to the physics and chemistry of space radiation. In my future career as a scientist, I hope to study the genetic effects of radiation exposure on humans and a means of protection against its harmful effects."

Li, a native of China who graduated from the Zhengzhou Medical School, heard about the program from a colleague who attended last year. "This year's program was really enriching and gave me a better understanding of radiation biology," he said. "I now plan to get more involved in Dr. Morgan's space research grant and will consider a post-doctoral fellowship in space radiation research." 



Yijun Li, Umut Aypar, and Dr. Eleanor Blakely, director of the 2007 NASA Space Radiation Summer School

Fellowship Gives Med Students the Means to Give Back

Dr. Albert Schweitzer, a winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, devoted his medical career to serving the underserved in Africa. Since 1991, hundreds of students in the U.S. have served their communities in his name through the Schweitzer Fellows Program, which rewards post-graduate students in health-related professions who devote themselves to community service projects.

"The Schweitzer fellowship pays students \$2000 for 200 hours over a year," said Dan Schulze, PhD, associate professor, Departments of Microbiology & Immunology and Otorhinolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, who is on the committee that chooses fellowship recipients. These fellows serve in seven cities across the U.S., including Baltimore, where the program is overseen by the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB).

Most students never see a dime, putting all they earn into their projects instead. "Plus, they'll do fundraisers and raise more," Schulze explained, citing the example of an opera-singing student who put on a recital at Westminster Hall. "They're very creative. They'll raise money locally; they'll go to grocery stores and get food donated, if that's part of their project. A lot of people want to help but don't know how, and then they meet these students."

Most of the students awarded with the fellowships come from the University of Maryland or Johns Hopkins. "It's about 50/50," says Schulze, who would like to see the candidate field expand. "It's not just the two schools who are eligible to participate. Students from any school in the area can apply. There just aren't too many other people who know about it and apply."

In addition to the 200 hours they're obligated to put in, all of the Baltimore fellows chosen each year must also meet monthly as a group. During this time, they plan two workshops on a topic of their choice to present to the community, usually presenting one at Hopkins and one at UMB.

Students who think they will not be able to contribute the necessary hours of service, which must be done outside of any projects that are a part of their curriculum, can instead choose to collaborate on a project, splitting the workload and the funds. That's what School of Medicine fellows Paulina Gorney, Lauren Minor, Hadas Skupsky and Omobonike Oloruntoba chose to do this year. They will work together to establish a curriculum on nutritional education for students in grades 7-10 that can then be implemented at local schools. Margaret Tsien, Robin Goldman and Zoe Blacksin will share hours at the Mountain Manor Treatment Center, where they will assist adolescent patients with health concerns at the drug-rehabilitation site. Sarah Goldberg, Teresa Matejovsky and Lesley Wojcik developed an extensive three-part curriculum for Mountain Manor that addresses the needs of its patients; the curriculum has been implemented and is utilized by the center's medical student volunteers.

One of the most successful Schweitzer programs has been Project Jump Start, a student-run clinic in West Baltimore that provides basic health and social service assistance to the homeless. Jump Start was a 2006 Schweitzer Fellows project started by medical student Dan Anderson, John Watts from the School of Pharmacy and Patricia Keegan from the School of Social Work, each of whom chose to put in the full 200 hours so they could earn \$2000 each to help fund the clinic. Their obligations to the Schweitzer foundation are now finished, but the project is continuing, with frequent fundraisers being held at local venues like Pickles Pub.

Dr. Schulze encourages students who are interested in applying to get involved with a current project. "I'd say only half of the students who apply get funded," he revealed. "It's heartbreaking being on the decision panel, because we see so many who are really good. It makes me want to work hard to raise more money, so more of these kids get funded."

The deadline to apply to be a Schweitzer Fellow is February 2008. For more information and an application, visit the Schweitzer website at www.schweitzerfellowship.org. 

The Schweitzer fellowship pays students \$2000 for 200 hours over a year.

SOMnews

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND SCHOOL OF MEDICINE OCTOBER 2007 VOL.9 NO.2

SOMnews is produced by the University of Maryland School of Medicine, Office of Public Affairs ▶ E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA, Vice President for Medical Affairs, University of Maryland, and Dean, School of Medicine ▶ Jennifer Litchman, Executive Editor ▶ Heather Graham, Managing Editor ▶ Caelie Haines, Karen Warmkessel, Jo Martin, Becky Ceraul and Tim McCoy, Contributors ▶ Brushwood Graphics Design Group, Design ▶ Submitting information to SOMnews: Please email your submission six weeks prior to the month you wish to see your submission included to jltchman@som.umaryland.edu.

UMB Alerts Now Active on Campus

UMB now offers an emergency text-messaging service, UMB Alerts. The service will provide a direct way to communicate emergency, weather-related and general university or school announcements. The system is voluntary, but all campus community members are encouraged to register. You may register up to two e-mail addresses and two devices that can receive sms/text messages.

For your personal protection and safety you are encouraged to register for this service as soon as possible.

There is no charge, but your individual cell phone service provider may charge a nominal fee for receiving or sending sms/text messages.

If you are a current student, faculty or staff member, your account has already been created. To register for this service, log onto <http://www.alert.umaryland.edu/>.

From there, you will be prompted to pick up your password. Click on the "Send Password" link. Enter your campus e-mail address in the text box and click on the "Send" button. You will receive an e-mail from UMB Alerts with

your password. Return to <http://www.alert.umaryland.edu/>. In the left hand column, enter your e-mail address and password. Click on the "Log in" button.

If you have any questions about registering for the emergency text-messaging system, please contact the Assistance and Service Center (ASC) Help Desk at 410-706-HELP.

