

Pagnam appointed to lead UMass Memorial Foundation

Charles J. Pagnam, a highly regarded fund-raising and advancement professional with more than two decades of experience in higher education and health care, has been appointed vice chancellor for development at the University of Massachusetts Medical School. He will lead the joint development function of UMass Medical School and clinical partner UMass Memorial Health Care and will serve as the chief executive of the UMass Memorial Foundation, which raises support for programs and initiatives at the two institutions.

"Charlie is an outstanding professional who brings a wealth of experience in higher education fund raising," said Chancellor and Dean Aaron Lazare. "He will be a great asset to the Medical School as we continue to encourage local, regional and national philanthropic support for our many research and education initiatives."

Pagnam came to the UMass Memorial Foundation from Mount Sinai Medical Center, where he served as senior vice president for development, charged with overseeing all development opera-

tions as well as the implementation of a \$1 billion capital campaign. A graduate of Nichols College in Dudley, Pagnam spent 27 years at Yale University, the last seven as vice president for development, a position in which he increased overall university-wide contributions from \$203 million to an annual high of \$350 million. New initiatives during his tenure included the establishment of a Parents Capital Giving Campaign and a Special Gift Division aimed at younger alumni.

Having built his extensive develop-

ment expertise at private institutions, Pagnam looks forward to the challenge of working for a public institution. "This is a unique and wonderful professional opportunity and a remarkable time to be joining UMass Medical School and UMass Memorial," said Pagnam. "I'm excited about the prospect of building philanthropic support for a public institution that is maturing and growing so successfully on every front."

Pagnam succeeds Walter J. Sleeth, who served as interim vice chancellor for development from February 2006 through January 2007. ■



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UMMS shares in Sloan Foundation grant to develop blended learning programs

The best online education combines Internet teaching tools with traditional face-to-face classroom learning, to produce a blended learning experience. How to advance this educational model is the subject of a \$650,000 grant, "Expanding access: Taking a local approach to the development and delivery of online and blended learning programs," from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation to the University of Massachusetts. The Sloan Foundation, a non-profit philanthropy that promotes online learning standards, aims to expand access to higher education for adult learners whose responsibilities and schedules can make attending traditional classroom-only courses difficult but who still want at least some interaction along with their online learning.

"The grant will help UMassOnline develop and deliver programs and services that will give students the flexibility of the Internet combined with face-to-face meetings with their colleagues and the faculty member," said Jacqueline Moloney, dean of continuing studies, corporate and distance education at UMass Lowell and principal investigator for the Sloan grant. Each of the five UMass campuses is developing or expanding courses with the grant.

Assistant Professor of Nursing Elaine Parker, PhD, is a co-principal investigator for the Worcester project. Dr. Parker, who is already offering online courses at the Graduate School of Nursing (GSN), is applying grant resources to two Nurse Educator subspecialty courses, "Teaching and Curriculum Development" and "Identifying and

Measuring Outcomes." A member of the University-wide Sub-committee on Academic Technology and certified in the design and development of Web-based courses, Parker explained, "We decided to use the funding to improve the delivery of our nurse educator subspecialty courses for both master's and post-master's students through expert design consultation and faculty development." Because one strategy to address the nurse educator shortage is to make training more accessible to students who are predominantly working adults, she added, "We're trying to create the most user-friendly program we can to encourage nurse educators."

Parker is pleased that the Sloan grant gives UMMS the opportunity to promote faculty as well as student development. "We're one of the few schools



Left to right, co-P.I. Elaine Parker, PhD, and Assistant Professors of Nursing Judy Abbate, PhD, and Maureen Wassef, PhD, are members of the Graduate School of Nursing project team for the Sloan grant.

helping our students develop skills in being an online learner, which will, in turn, enable them to be online instructors." According to Parker, online discussions are in-depth, promoting critical thinking. Students have the opportunity to review and edit material and use asynchronous student discussions which allow interactive learning on one's own time. "Research shows student learning outcomes are as good with online as with traditional courses," said Parker. ■

News Makers online!

To learn what faculty experts are saying about the topics making today's local, state and national headlines, visit www.umassmed.edu/pap/NewsMakers/. When appropriate, the page will also list upcoming UMMS expert appearances in print, TV and radio venues.



Interdepartmental program explores the power of cell dynamics

Living cells are complex machines that grow, divide, change shape and communicate with the environment. These remarkably dynamic processes must be coordinated to produce the tissues and organs that comprise healthy organisms; defects in these processes can lead to devastating developmental diseases. Researchers are now using sophisticated genetic, molecular and microscopic tools to probe the mechanisms that control changes in cell organization that drive normal cell division and differentiation. UMass Medical School is the home to a remarkable concentration of these top researchers working at the cutting edge of cell dynamics.

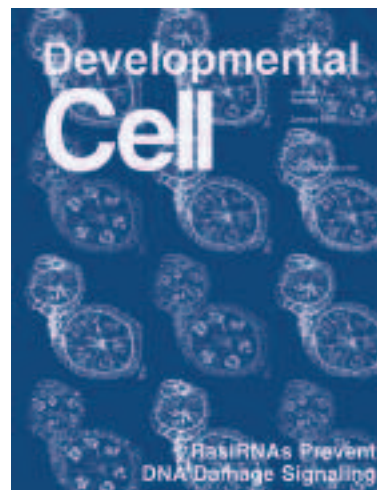
UMass is home to a remarkable concentration of top researchers in the expanding field of cell dynamics.

The interdepartmental Program in Cell Dynamics was formed in 2002, after UMMS merged with the Worcester Foundation for Biomedical Research, a powerhouse in the field of cell motility. The program now includes 20 internationally recognized laboratories from five departments, supported by a number of molecular, biological and imaging facilities.

According to William E. Theurkauf, PhD, professor of molecular medicine and director of the program, the goal of the cell dynamics initiative is to foster interactions among scientists with shared interests from across the campus. To that end, Dr. Theurkauf

and colleagues—with funding and support from the Office of Research—established a weekly journal club, a bi-weekly research data club and a seminar series. “These are ideal forums for training, giving us the opportunity to discuss recent research from outside of the institution as well as to present our own data to like-minded and interested colleagues and collaborators,” said program faculty member Stephen J. Doxsey, PhD, professor of molecular medicine.

Added Theurkauf, “Although faculty clearly benefit from the interactive nature and collegiality of the group, it is most beneficial to students and post docs. When they come to the Medical



Faculty in the program publish in a number of high impact journals, including *Developmental Cell*, which highlighted Theurkauf's paper “*Drosophila* rasiRNA Pathway Mutations Disrupt Embryonic Axis Specification through Activation of an ATR/Chk2 DNA Damage Response” on its January cover.

School with an interest in cell dynamics, they have the opportunity to interact with and present their research findings to some of the world's experts in this area in a very informal, friendly and non-intimidating setting.”

This interactive environment has helped foster outstanding science as exemplified by a number of recent publications in high impact journals. In the February issue of *Cell*, Peter M. Pryciak, PhD, associate professor of molecular genetics & microbiology, describes a newly discovered link between cell division and cell polarization with implications for differentiation and development. Work in

Dr. Doxsey's lab, which was detailed in the February issue of *Nature Cell Biology*, indicates that the cell cycle is linked to the centrosome, an organelle with a critical function in organizing cell structure that has been implicated in cancer progression. And, a recent study from the Theurkauf lab (see image and caption) reveals an unexpected link between small RNAs and processes critical to embryonic patterning.

For more information on graduate and postdoctoral studies in Cell Dynamics, visit www.umassmed.edu/celldynamics/index. ■



Albert Sherman

In his nearly 20 years at UMMS, Sherman has served as the point of contact for elected officials seeking to deepen their understanding of how UMMS achieves its mission.

Sherman honored for lifetime achievement

University of Massachusetts Medical School Vice Chancellor for University Relations Albert Sherman was recently honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award presented by the Jewish Community Relations Council of Boston and the Massachusetts Association of Jewish Federations at their 10th Annual Legislative Reception. In his nearly 20 years at UMMS, Sherman has served as the point of contact for elected officials seeking to deepen their understanding of how UMMS achieves its mission.

The 2007 Lifetime Achievement Award, the first for the organizations, honors Sherman for his professional accomplishments on behalf of UMMS and the role he has played on behalf of the Jewish community, particularly at the State House. In attendance and sharing personal anecdotes along with their congratulations were UMMS Chancellor and Dean Aaron Lazare; Lieutenant Governor Timothy Murray; and Massachusetts Senate President Robert Travaglini.

“Albie Sherman enjoys the trust and respect of numerous legislators

and brings their trust to the Medical School,” said Dr. Lazare.

A pharmacist by training, Sherman is a graduate of the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Sciences and is a board member of numerous local, national and international organizations including the Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston, Massachusetts Society for Medical Research, Greater Boston Association for Retarded Citizens and many others. ■

achievements

Following are faculty who have joined UMMS as professors or associate professors or who have been promoted to those positions, as documented by the Office of Faculty Administration.

- **Karen G. Kelly**, MD, clinical associate professor of medicine
 - **Stuart M. Levitz**, MD, professor of medicine and molecular genetics & microbiology
 - **Stanley K.C. Tam**, MD, associate professor of surgery
-
- **William L. Marshall**, MD, promoted to associate professor of medicine
 - **Saki F. Santorelli**, EdD, promoted to associate professor of medicine
 - **Celia A. Schiffer**, PhD, promoted to professor of biochemistry & molecular pharmacology
 - **Christopher J. Stille**, MD, MPH, promoted to associate professor of pediatrics
 - **David R. Weaver**, PhD, promoted to professor of neurobiology

UMMS sets stage for students to reveal their brain power

High school students from across the region sacrificed a precious Saturday evening to test their knowledge of the human brain during the first Central Massachusetts Regional Brain Bee (CMRBB) held on Feb. 3 at the University of Massachusetts Medical School.

"We were thrilled to see so many enthusiastic students participate in this event designed to educate teens about the brain and to provide them an opportunity to consider a career in a scientific field," said Joanne Skidmore Treistman, MPH, coordinator of Outreach and Education at the Brudnick Neuropsychiatric Research Institute (BNRI).

Sponsored by Abbott Bioresearch and UMMS' BNRI, Eunice Kennedy Shriver Center and Department of Neurology, the Brain Bee is a program of the Society for Neuroscience and the Dana Foundation. The BNRI Brain Education Center hosted the event as a component of its mission to provide public outreach and education to Worcester and surrounding communities. Nearly 30 students from 10 area high schools took a shot at being named the region's first Brain Bee champion, and although there could only be one, many were delighted to take part in the experience.

"This has been a great opportunity for me to find out how much I know about the brain and how much I've learned in advanced placement biology," said finalist Jonathan Corbin, 18, a senior at David Prouty High School in Spencer. "I just wish I could have done this sooner."

North High School Senior Marcy Akomeah, 17, agreed. "I wish I could compete next year, but I'm glad I participated this year," she said. "It gave

me the opportunity to learn more outside of the classroom."

As the competition began, the participants settled in for the first elimination round, which consisted of a written exam and question-and-answer session about brain structure and function. Contestants were also required to identify actors' portrayals of neurological disorders. Student volunteers from UMMS and Holy Cross were on hand to help. After the first round of testing, students joined family and friends at an exhibit featuring information on mental health, substance abuse and the importance of sleep, nutrition and helmet and seat belt safety. Participants were also treated to a talk by Steven N. Treistman, PhD, professor of psychiatry and neurobiology and director of the BNRI, about science and science careers.

Of the original 28, 11 students qualified for the final elimination round of oral questions and answers. BNRI Research Instructor Nicki Fox, PhD, emceed the event, while David R. Weaver, PhD, professor of neurobiology and director of the Program in Neuroscience, judged students' responses to questions. Tahanto Regional High School Senior Corrinne Lauze walked away with the grand prize—the Andrew M. Sheridan Young Neuro-scientist Award and a trip to the International Brain Bee.

"I spent a lot of time studying for



Corrinne Lauze (left), 17, of Tahanto Regional High School won first prize at the first Central Massachusetts Regional Brain Bee. Julie Sung (center), 17, of Hopkinton High School received second prize, while Lisha Xu, 15, of Shrewsbury High School placed third.

Central Massachusetts Regional Brain Bee finalists

Jonathan Corbin

David Prouty High School (Spencer)

Corrinne Lauze

Tahanto Regional High School (Boylston)

Jennifer Lu

Shrewsbury High School

Conor McCormick

Doherty Memorial High School (Worcester)

Tutran Nguyen

Health Science Academy at North High School (Worcester)

Alison Philbrook

Hopkinton High School

Jonathan Quang

Health Science Academy at North High School (Worcester)

Xavier Simon

Health Science Academy at North High School (Worcester)

Maria Shteinluket

Westborough High School

Julie Sung

Hopkinton High School

Lisha Xu

Shrewsbury High School

this, and my advanced placement biology teacher, Ms. [Alice] Apostolou, worked with my classmates and me to make sure we were prepared," said Lauze. "I am just so excited to be

going to the International Brain Bee." During the international competition, Lauze will compete against students from 10 other countries, including New Zealand and India. ■

employees infocus

March Employee of Distinction Award

Vitals

Victoria Andersen, MS, RD

Nutritionist II

Preventive and Behavioral Medicine

Year started: 2002

Hometown: Worcester

Professionally Speaking

Since arriving as a clinical nutritionist less than five years ago, Victoria Andersen, MS, RD, has made strides in improving the health of patients and employees through nutrition.

"UMMS has allowed me to find ways to empower people to be healthy," she said. "I really enjoy working with a variety of patients individually and in groups. Patients are experts in their own lives, and with my nutrition education and experience, we work together as they discover their best possible health goals."

Andersen provides outpatient nutritional counseling and specializes in the nutritional treatment of numerous

diseases, including high cholesterol, hypertension and diabetes. She also gives talks on nutrition and healthy living to students and cardiology fellows and has been involved with several health-related programs and studies, including *StepAhead* and the Center for Mindfulness Prostate Cancer Study.

Points of Pride

As a dietician for the Cardiac Rehab group, Andersen and a colleague teach cooking classes to cardiac rehab patients. She has expanded the cardiac rehab nutrition program to include monthly grocery store tours. "The nutrition and cooking courses were always successful, but in the grocery aisles patients make the connection between the heart-healthy eating they learn in class to actual food on the shelves."

Andersen has also contributed to the health of employees. Through *StepAhead*, she has increased awareness about healthy eating by designing and implementing various

nutrition interventions, which include vending, cafeteria nutritional signage, weekly recipes, recipe books, newsletters, workshops and the Web site.

Stephenie Lemon, PhD, assistant professor of medicine, and Barbara Olendzki, RD, MPH, director of nutrition and instructor in medicine, have seen the outcome of Andersen's work firsthand and nominated her for Employee of Distinction. They wrote, "She embodies the immense personal and professional dedication and effort to clinical care, research and education that is required to successfully improve people's health."



Calendar

information infocus

Call for artists

The Lamar Soutter Library is seeking artists for its Artist in Residence Series, which showcases the work of artists from within the UMMS community. If you are an artist with a comprehensive or unified body of work and are interested in exhibiting, contact Nancy Harger at x6-3334 or via global e-mail for additional information.

AECPC construction update

While not apparent to passersby, work on the new 258,000-square-foot, seven-floor Advanced Education and Clinical Practice Center has been steady since early December. Crews have excavated the site, installed concrete footers and basement walls, installed temporary site utilities and "blocked in" the wall openings in the southwest corner of the South Road parking garage.

In mid-March, the site will begin to look very different when a large crane will arrive for use in raising the structure's steel frame. The steel itself is scheduled to arrive by the beginning of April.

To view what's happening on the AECPC construction site, visit the webcam at www.umassmed.edu/campus/modernization/webcam where you can see work in progress; images are updated every 10 minutes.



Chancellor's Forum

Monday, March 5, 2007

12:15 to 1:15 p.m.

Faculty Conference Room

Suggestions for agenda items may be sent via global e-mail or interoffice mail to

Rosalie Noone in Public Affairs and Publications.

■ In celebration of Woman's History Month, the Diversity and Equal Opportunity Office is sponsoring *Your Resume is Not Enough* on Thursday, March 8, in Amphitheatre II from noon to 1 p.m. Presenters will be Paulette Goeden, senior administrator for the Vice Chancellor for Operations; Karin Fitch, HR consultant II in Human Resources; and John Finch, deputy director of business development and operations at Massachusetts Biologic Laboratories. Featured topics include how to make a professional impression when seeking the job you want, how to manage your career and how to identify your career expectations and determine if they can be met. All are welcome to attend.

■ The Human Resources Workplace Learning Group will sponsor the following Brown Bag seminars in the coming weeks:

- *What's My Type Again?* Thursday, March 15
- *A Model for Decision Making* Friday, March 23

Both sessions will be held from noon to 1 p.m. in Amphitheatre II. For more information about the sessions and to register, visit the Human Resources Workplace Learning site at inside.umassmed.edu/hr/training/tracks/brownbag

■ The UMMS Center for Mindfulness in Medicine, Health Care and Society is sponsoring its fifth annual international scientific conference on mindfulness-based interventions from Thursday, March 29 through

Sunday, April 1 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Worcester. The focus of this year's conference for clinicians, researchers and educators is *Integrating Mindfulness-based Approaches and Interventions into Medicine, Health Care and Society*. Registration is required; for more information, call 6-2656 or visit the conference Web page at www.umassmed.edu/cfm/interventions.

■ Human Resources will host a Job Fair on Thursday, April 5, in the Blais Pavilion of the Lazare Research Building, from 4 to 7 p.m. Departments interested in participating should contact Robin Pollier in Human Resources at 6-2185 or via global e-mail.

■ The eighth annual Educational Recognition Awards Ceremony will be held at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, April 10, in the Arthur and Martha Pappas Amphitheatre. This special event celebrates the educational achievements of faculty and students from all three schools. The Lamar Soutter Award for Excellence in Medical Education, Deans' Awards, Educational Achievement Awards and other awards recognizing outstanding faculty and students will be presented. A reception will follow immediately in the Faculty Conference Room. All are welcome to attend.

■ The 14th Annual Teddy Bear Clinic will take place on Saturday, April 14, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Greendale Mall in Worcester. The free health fair for children and families in Central New England is staffed by UMass Memorial Children's Medical Center doctors, nurses and volunteers who share medical expertise and promote health and safety. The fair also includes 35 exhibits and booths to help children learn about health, safety, visiting the doctor, having surgery and injury prevention. Children are encouraged to bring a teddy bear or a toy they wish to have a doctor examine. For more information, call 6-1650.

grants infocus

□ **Julia D. Andrieni**, MD, assistant professor of medicine: *Improving Quality of Care for Elderly Patients in the Educational Setting*, Josiah Macy, Jr. and the American Board of Internal Medicine Foundations, 18 months, \$14,500.

□ **Francis K. Chan**, PhD, assistant professor of pathology: *Regulation of TRAIL Induces Apoptosis*, National Cancer Institute, one year, \$230,750; recommended for three more years, \$692,250.

□ **Marianne E. Felice**, MD, professor and chair of pediatrics and professor of obstetrics & gynecology: *Worcester Infant Mortality Assessment Project*, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation, one year, \$50,000.

□ **Laxman D. Gangwani**, PhD, research assistant professor of molecular medicine: *Function of the Zinc Finger Protein ZPR1 in Spinal Muscular Atrophy*, Muscular Dystrophy Association, Inc., one year, \$138,842; recommended for two more years, \$276,380.

□ **Rachel M. Gerstein**, PhD, associate professor of molecular genetics & microbiology: *Regulation of V(D)J Recombination in B Cell Development*, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, one year, \$346,875; recommended for four more years, \$1.3 million.

□ **Elizabeth M. Hearn**, PhD, post-doctoral fellow in the lab of Lambertus van den Berg, PhD, assistant professor of molecular medicine: *Transport of Hydrophobic Xenobiotics by Gram-Negative Bacterial Membrane Proteins*, National Institute of General Medical Sciences, one year, \$46,826; recommended for one more year, \$49,646.

□ **John J. Kelly**, MD, associate professor of surgery: *Surgical Fellowship Funding*, Ethicon Endo-Surgery, Inc., one year, \$75,000.

□ **Roger S. Luckmann**, MD, MPH, associate professor of family medicine & community health: *Supporting Patient and Provider Management of Chronic Pain with Personal Digital Assistant Applications Linked to Personal Health Records*, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, 18 months, \$300,000.

□ **Andrzej Z. Pietrzykowski**, MD, PhD, research instructor in psychiatry: *miRNA Regulation of Alcohol Actions in Mammalian Brain*, Alcoholic Beverage Medical Research Foundation, one year, \$50,000; recommended for one more year, \$50,000.

□ **Peter M. Pryciak**, PhD, associate professor of molecular genetics & microbiology: *Yeast Pheromone Signal Transduction*, National Institute of General Medical Sciences, one year, \$335,676; recommended for three more years, \$996,700.

□ **Zuoshang Xu**, MD, PhD, associate professor of biochemistry & molecular pharmacology and cell biology: *Reverse Genetics Using RNAi*, National Institute on Aging, one year, \$166,563; recommended for one more year, \$199,875.

□ **Jianhua Zhou**, PhD, assistant professor of medicine: *Protecting Against SMN Defects by Stress Response Proteins and Biological Molecules*, Muscular Dystrophy Association, Inc., one year, \$76,722; recommended for two more years, \$163,716.

focus

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