

## Celebrating faculty, students and patients as teachers

UMass President Jack M. Wilson joined the UMMS community in honoring the institution's educators—faculty, students and patients—during the 2007 Educational Recognition Awards on April 10. Since the establishment of the awards nine years ago, the annual ceremony brings the UMMS campus together to celebrate medical educators' achievements in teaching and mentoring UMMS students, while exemplifying the institution's supportive and collaborative learning environment.

In welcoming this year's honorees, President Wilson remarked on the institution's recent achievements in both clinical education and research. "The reputation the Medical School has built, and its position in the *U.S. News & World Report* rankings, is a reflection of the passion our faculty have for providing students with a remarkable education and instilling in them a sense of service to the people of the Commonwealth and the nation," said Wilson. "The Medical School's success is directly related to the superb performance of its students, faculty, staff and administrators and is a source of great pride throughout the University of Massachusetts system and, indeed, throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The Medical School truly has created a tradition of excellence, and today we highlight some of the people who have made significant contributions to this tradition."

Wilson then presented two faculty members—one from a clinical depart-

ment and one from a basic science department—with the prestigious Lamar Soutter Award for Excellence in Medical Education, given in memory of the founding dean. The award recognizes faculty who have established a record of excellence and have left a mark on not only UMMS, but medical education in America. The recipients are selected by a nomination and vote of the entire UMMS faculty.

This year, the Lamar Soutter Award was presented to John A. Paraskos, MD, professor of medicine, and Julie A. Jonassen, PhD, associate professor of physiology. Dr. Paraskos joined the UMMS faculty in 1975 and now serves as Dean of Admissions. Internationally recognized as a leader in cardiac resuscitation, he is regarded as one of the best bedside cardiologists in New England. Director of the Interclerkship Program since its creation in 1995, Dr. Jonassen has devoted herself to numerous curriculum initiatives during the past 15 years. Known for continuously revising her lectures to reflect changing science,



Pictured on the right are Lamar Soutter Award for Excellence in Medical Education recipients Julie Jonassen, PhD, and John Paraskos, MD. At left are GSN Dean's Award recipient Susan Sullivan-Bolyai, DNSc, and GSBS Dean's Award recipient Roger Davis, PhD.

Jonassen has taught reproductive/endocrine physiology for 22 years and often lends her expertise in physiology to a variety of cross-disciplinary efforts with other departments.

"Drs. Paraskos and Jonassen, along with the faculty, students and patients honored here today, have left a lasting imprint on medical education at UMMS, and that mark will continue to encourage others to follow in their footsteps as devoted educators," said Wilson. ■ See full list of recipients on page 2.

**"The Medical School truly has created a tradition of excellence, and today we highlight some of the people who have made significant contributions to this tradition."**

*Jack Wilson, UMass President*

## Costanza is Community Clinician of the Year

Mary E. Costanza, MD, professor of medicine, has been named a 2007 Community Clinician of the Year by the Massachusetts Medical Society (MMS) under the aegis of the Worcester District Medical Society (WDMS). Established in 1998, the award recognizes a practitioner from each of the MMS' 20 district medical societies who has made significant contributions to patients and community. Dr. Costanza was recognized for combining clinical skills with compassion and devotion to patient needs during a distinguished career spanning more than four decades.

"It is a unique privilege to be a physician and to have a relationship with another human being as a physician," said Costanza of her patient-centered philosophy. "I love taking care of my patients."

Certified in medical oncology by the American Board of Internal Medicine, Costanza has been an adult oncologist specializing in breast cancer for 43 years. A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Radcliffe College, she earned her MD at the University of Rochester School of Medicine and completed residency and fellowship training at the New England Medical Center. A breast cancer

researcher, she has served on numerous advisory panels and site visit committees for the National Institutes of Health and editorial boards for oncology journals.

Costanza reveals her commitment to community practice through numerous roles, both professional and voluntary. Focusing her research and clinical practice on preventing, diagnosing and treating breast cancer, Costanza served on the committee that developed mammography standards and regulations for the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, contributing accurate diagnosis and treatment for thousands of local women.

Costanza joins a distinguished group of UMMS faculty previously honored with the MMS Community Clinician Award, including Michael P. Hirsh, MD, professor of surgery and pediatrics; Harvey G. Clermont, MD, assistant professor of surgery; Francis X. Dufault, MD, professor of medicine; Erik J. Garcia, MD, assistant professor of family medicine & community health; and Marie Hobart, MD, assistant professor of psychiatry.

The award was presented to Costanza at the WDMS Annual Business Meeting and Oration for which Michele P. Pugnare, MD, vice dean for undergraduate medical education and associate professor of family medicine & community health, delivered the oration. "I am honored to receive this award," said Costanza. "Being recognized by one's peers is a very special tribute." ■



Mary Costanza, MD

### 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/](http://www.umassmed.edu/pap/NewsMakers/). When appropriate, the page will also list upcoming UMMS expert appearances in print, TV and radio venues.



## Wang honored with LGBT Health Achievement Award

Jessica Wang, SOM '09, is the recipient of the Ninth Annual Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Health Achievement Award for her contributions as an advocate for introducing issues that affect LGBT patients into the Medical School curriculum. Wang is leader of QMass, a UMMS student organization dedicated to supporting and promoting these issues. Presented by the American Medical Student Association and the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association, the award recognizes exemplary achievement in endorsing the inclusion of LGBT health issues or concerns within a medical school environment.

**Discrimination often results** from lack of representation, whether it is in the health care curriculum, medical research or clinical practice.

“QMass gets a boost of confidence and energy from this honor, which helps to affirm that we are moving in the right direction with our projects and goals in LGBT health care awareness at UMass Medical School,” said Wang. “It’s great to know that I can make a difference as an ally, and that what I do is considered legitimate and important.”

With student and faculty support, QMass seeks to increase LGBT health care awareness through comprehensive enhancements to the curriculum, with subjects such as health care

disparities and transgender health, as well as through a support network for LGBT and allied members. Additional initiatives include sponsored student lunches on the health care needs of LGBT adolescents and elders and the development of an outreach program to local high school gay/straight alliances.

“Jessica’s steadfast commitment to LGBT advocacy during her first two years of medical school has made a noticeable impact here,” said Emily Ferrara, MA, assistant professor of family medicine & community health and



**Jessica Wang, SOM '09, was honored for exemplary achievement in advocating for the inclusion of LGBT health issues and concerns within a medical school environment.**

QMass faculty advisor. “Faculty have welcomed her as a partner in efforts to improve the curriculum. Jessica is an enthusiastic collaborator and leader, keeping issues relevant to LGBT people—whether patient, provider or student—in the public eye.”

Wang believes that discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people often results from lack of

representation, whether it is in the health care curriculum, medical research or clinical practice. “As much as anyone, these individuals deserve health care that is relevant to their needs,” said Wang. “One of the best ways to do that is to educate medical students, nursing students and all health care providers about LGBT health care concerns.” ■

## 2007 Educational Recognition Awards

### Lamar Soutter Award for Excellence in Medical Education

Julie A. Jonassen, PhD  
*associate professor of physiology*  
John A. Paraskos, MD  
*professor of medicine*

### GSBS Dean's Award

Roger J. Davis, PhD  
*Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator and the H. Arthur Smith Chair in Cancer Research, and professor of molecular medicine and biochemistry & molecular pharmacology*

### GSN Dean's Award

Susan Sullivan-Bolyai, DNSc  
*assistant professor of pediatrics*

### MS Patient-Teacher Awards

Patient Instructor: Matthew Koss, PhD  
Patient Professor: Clarence Perry  
Patient Professor: Stephanie Poh

### MS Educational Achievement (Star) Award

Eric J. Alper, MD  
*associate professor of medicine*  
Silvia Corvera, MD  
*professor of molecular medicine and cell biology*  
Michael P. Czech, PhD  
*professor and chair of molecular medicine and professor of biochemistry & molecular pharmacology*  
Aldo A. Rossini, MD  
*William and Doris Krupp Professor of Medicine and professor of medicine and molecular medicine*  
Ancuta M. Stefan, MD  
*assistant professor of cell biology*  
Cristian Stefan, PhD  
*associate professor of cell biology*  
Dennis A. Tighe, MD  
*associate professor of medicine*

### MS Community Faculty Educator Award

Arabinda Chatterjee, MD  
*assistant professor of family medicine & community health, Thompson Medical Center*  
Nita Chatterjee, MD  
*instructor in family medicine & community health, Thompson Medical Center*  
Bradley E. Harris, MD  
*instructor in medicine, Milford Regional Medical Center*  
Jane A. Lochrie, MD  
*clinical associate professor of medicine, St. Vincent Hospital*  
G. Thomas Stowe, MD  
*assistant professor of neurology, private practice, Pittsfield*

### Outstanding Medical Educator Award

David M. Clive, MD  
*professor of medicine*  
John M. Cooke, PhD  
*associate professor of cell biology*  
Henri F. Cuénoud, MD  
*associate professor of medicine and pathology*  
Susan B. Gagliardi, PhD  
*professor of cell biology and neurology*  
Anne M. Gilroy, MA  
*assistant professor of surgery and cell biology*

### GSBS Distinguished Faculty Award

Stephen J. Doxsey, PhD  
*professor of molecular medicine, biochemistry & molecular pharmacology and cell biology*  
David R. Weaver, PhD  
*professor of neurobiology*

**The 2007 GSBS student award recipients are, clockwise from bottom left, Chien-Ling Lin, Sen-Lin Lai, Jennifer Saporita, Jennifer Pirri and Jessica Rocheleau. Alex Keene, PhD, also a recipient, is not pictured.**



### GSBS Faculty Achievement Award

Rachel M. Gerstein, PhD  
*associate professor of molecular genetics & microbiology*  
Mary Munson, PhD  
*assistant professor of biochemistry & molecular pharmacology and cell biology*  
Neal Silverman, PhD  
*assistant professor of medicine*  
Fumihiko Urano, MD, PhD  
*assistant professor of molecular medicine*  
GSN Distinguished Faculty Award  
Carol A. Bova, PhD  
*assistant professor of medicine*  
Omanand Koul, PhD  
*research associate professor of biochemistry & molecular pharmacology*  
Jill M. Terrien, MS  
*clinical instructor in acute/critical care*

### GSN Community Faculty Award

Marie Briasco, MSN  
Barbara Ann Giguere, EdD  
Cheryl Hatch, MSN  
Rolando Perrera, MSN  
Sheila Porter, MS  
Mara Wermuth, MS

### MS Student Educator Award

Walter M. Kim, MD/PhD student  
Jessica Wang, MS '09

### GSBS Dean's Award to Students

Alex Keene, PhD  
Sen-Lin Lai  
Chien-Ling Lin  
Jennifer Pirri  
Jennifer Saporita

### GSBS Student Service Award

Jessica Rocheleau

### GSN Community Service Award

Katharine K. O'Dell, PhD  
*assistant professor of obstetrics & gynecology*  
Celynne Guilmette, BS, RN  
Nancy Lynch, BS, RN  
Caryn Metzger, BS, RN  
Ashley Wilkinson, BSN, RN

### GSN Advanced Community Service Award

Jennifer Markey, BS, RN

### UMMMC Outstanding GSN Critical Care Preceptor Award

Paul Lavallee, APRN, BC

### Worcester Pipeline Collaborative and Outreach Programs Outstanding Mentor Award

Miguel Concepción, MS '08

## Interdisciplinary mission

Joselyn Cortez, RN, GSN '07, responded to an e-mail fund-raising plea and now says her life is changed forever because of it.

UMMS medical students preparing for their second annual clinical trip to the Dominican Republic distributed an e-mail message to their fellow students seeking donations for medical supplies. Not only was Cortez interested in giving, she wanted to be a part of the group. So for the first time, the International Health Interest Group included a Graduate School of Nursing student on their mission to provide basic health care to rural villages.

"I knew this would be an opportunity for me to use my skills as a nurse in a new and challenging environment and to be part of an interdisciplinary team. We all bring different strengths, and we all have knowledge and experiences that our counterparts can learn from and that can enhance the health care our patients receive," said Cortez, a second-year student in the Graduate Entry Pathway and a registered nurse at UMass Memorial Medical Center—Memorial Campus.

Students in the International Health

Interest Group made their first medical mission in 2006, inspired by a presentation given by Vice Dean for Undergraduate Medical Education Michele P. Pugnaire, MD. Dr. Pugnaire had traveled many times to the Dominican Republic to perform medical work, and she shared her enthusiasm and her insights as the students prepared for their own mission. In 2006, they came home exhausted but inspired, determined to return again this year. For this year's trip, Cortez joined 45 other UMMS medical students and faculty members, including Pugnaire.

The students and faculty members made up two groups, one with third-year medical students participating in clerkships and the other with first- and second-year medical students and Cortez. The groups saw about 90 patients each day for a variety of conditions from body aches and rashes to urinary tract infections and pregnancies. Several medical students also delivered educational workshops about birth control, disease prevention and basic hygiene. "I had never been abroad, and I was a little bit surprised," said Cortez.



**GSN student Joselyn Cortez is pictured above (front row, second from the right) in the Dominican Republic with fellow UMMS students.**

**Inset: Second-year medical student David Bielak counsels a patient.**



"There was so much need for not just health care, but for basic necessities as well. Although we tried to care for as many patients as possible, there was much to be done, and our hope is that those patients we cared for will return to their communities and share what they have learned from us with their families and neighbors."

Cortez plans to participate in additional medical missions and knows that

other GSN classmates are interested in participating in future clinical trips abroad. "I valued the opportunity to work with such bright and compassionate medical students and hope that others may have the same positive experience. It reminded me about why I chose to become a nurse practitioner," said Cortez. "By taking just a moment to educate patients, we can impact their lives and improve their health. ■

## New smart ID badges on their way

UMass Medical School is introducing a "smart" ID badge to take advantage of new technology that will make life at work a little simpler. The new badges incorporate microchip technology to make coming and going from the parking areas faster and more convenient. Future potential applications of the smart technology include use as a library card and as a pre-paid debit card for food services and gift shops.

The Access Control and Parking Office will begin the process of exchanging old ID badges for new ones in May. The phased process will take about six months to complete. To ease the transition, information from individuals' current badges will be used to create the new badges in advance of the exchange. However, if individuals need to make changes to that information (such as department, title or name), they must send an e-mail message with the new information to [parking@umassmed.edu](mailto:parking@umassmed.edu) prior to May 11.

The first phase of the exchange, which will begin on May 15, will affect those who park in the reserved parking areas on the University Campus. Access Control staff

will be in the old Medical School Lobby to make the ID badge exchanges on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 6:45 to 9:30 a.m. Second shift employees with reserved parking must visit the Access and Parking Control Office in HA-531 after May 15 to exchange their badges. Monthly schedules will be published in *Focus* and on the UMMS intranet via a Message of the Day link.

The second phase of the exchange will cover individuals with unreserved parking privileges and will be done alphabetically by first letter of the last name. The exchange will begin with the letter "A" the week of June 12. During this phase, afternoon hours from 2:30 to 4 p.m. will be added to the exchange.

*continued on page 4*



## employees infocus

### May Employee of Distinction Award

#### Vitals

##### Karen Albert

Project Director II  
Department of Psychiatry,  
Center for Mental Health Services Research

**Year started:** 1998

**Hometown:** Lunenburg

#### Professionally speaking

May Employee of Distinction Karen Albert's work efforts so far exceeded the expectations and responsibilities of her job as a research coordinator for the Department of Psychiatry's Center for Mental Health Services Research (CMHSR), that manager and nominator Joanne Nicholson, PhD, professor of psychiatry, redefined her position to accurately reflect Albert's many responsibilities and her competence in performing all of them.

"The new Project Director II position draws upon all of Karen's management skills, as well as her ability to make sophisticated clinical judgments and build and maintain relationships with state and community agencies across the Commonwealth," wrote Dr. Nicholson. "Karen is an expert at translating the activities of a rigorous research study into a realistic, workable management plan."

For her current CMHSR Family Options Project, a study of a family-centered wraparound services program for parents with a mental illness and their children, Albert recruits and retains subjects; builds relationships with administrators and clinicians at referring agencies; develops and refines effective research protocols; hires and trains research interviewers; and ensures that the necessary paperwork is accurate and on time.

"When Family Options came along, I was attracted by the scope of the project, which required oversight of both its research and clinical aspects. The demands have been

challenging, yet very rewarding," said Albert.

#### Points of pride

While the scope of Albert's work covers all aspects of the Family Options Program, she continues to conduct research interviews herself and is pleased to have successfully transferred skills acquired from her clinical training and background to the research setting. Her ability to engage research subjects and develop trusting relationships has contributed to her success in enrolling and retaining study participants. She concluded, "It is one of the most gratifying things about the work I do."



# Calendar

## information infocus

### Open Enrollment

Benefits Open Enrollment continues through Friday, May 18. During this period, employees can enroll or make changes to their benefits including health insurance, long-term disability, sick leave bank and Metropolitan Law. Enrollments and changes will take effect on July 1, 2007. For additional information and enrollment forms, visit [inside.umassmed.edu/hr/benefits/](http://inside.umassmed.edu/hr/benefits/) or call the Benefits Department at x6-2282 or x6-2036.

### COMECC thanks you!

Thank you to the members of the UMMS community who contributed to COMECC 2006. Participation reached 42 percent and over \$354,000 was raised. School of Medicine students raised over \$9,000 through their annual auction and raffle; proceeds were donated to Abby's House of Worcester.

■ The School of Medicine class of 2010 will hold a memorial service to remember donors to the Anatomical Gift Program and their families on Saturday, May 5, at the Hoagland-Pincus Conference Center, Shrewsbury Campus. The service begins at 10 a.m. and is immediately followed by a reception. For information, call Dianne Person at x6-2460.

■ The UMass Memorial Child Care Program will hold its annual hanging plant sale on Thursday, May 10, from 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on the south lawn across from the LRB (weather permitting) or the old Medical School Lobby if it's raining heavily—just look for the beautiful colors! For information, call Linda Scricco at x4-0814.

■ *Global Health and Emerging Infectious Diseases in Asia*, a program commemorating Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, will be held on Thursday, May 10, from noon to 1 p.m. in Goff S2-309 B and C. Shan Lu, MD, PhD, professor of medicine and biochemistry & molecular pharmacology, will deliver the presentation. For more information, call the DEEO at x6-2179.

■ The Second Annual International Festival will be held on Friday, May 11, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the old Medical School lobby and the Faculty Conference Room. The event includes a celebration of cultures, exhibits, entertainment, food and a market of fair-trade handicrafts. The program is sponsored by the Diversity and Equal Opportunity Office (DEEO), UMMS Human Resources and the International Subcommittee of the Council on Equal Opportunity and Diversity. For information, call DEEO at x6-2179.

■ The Boston Gay Men's Chorus will perform on Friday, May 11, from 7:30 to 9 p.m. in Amphitheatre I. Sponsored by the GLBTA Subcommittee of the Council on Equal Opportunity and Diversity and the Diversity and Equal Opportunity Office, the event will feature a range of classical and popular music. For information, call DEEO at x6-2179.

■ Human Resources and senior administration will host Employee Appreciation Day for the University Campus on Thursday, May 24, from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Medical School Lobby. A "Malt Shop" theme will feature make-your-own sundaes and beverages. UMMS employees at other locations will be notified of their site's celebration dates and details. Commonwealth Medicine will organize and schedule separate appreciation events for their employees in the fall.

■ On Wednesday, May 30, the Humanities in Medicine Committee of the Lamar Soutter Library is sponsoring a poetry reading and book signing featuring *Body Language: Poems of the Medical Training Experience*, a newly released anthology of writings from 45 physician-poets. Richard M. Berlin, MD, associate professor of psychiatry at UMass Medical School, will be a featured reader. A reception will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the Rare Book Room, with the poetry reading and book signing following at 7 p.m. For information, call Nancy Harger at x6-3334.

## New ID badges Continued from page 3

After the on-campus exchange is complete, parking staff will travel to off-site campuses to complete the exchange process. Look for updates in the fall issues of *Focus*.

**Students and residents finishing in June 2007 and employees who already have the new format ID badges need not exchange them.** Employees and students who are unable to participate in the scheduled exchange must visit the Access Control and Parking Office **after** their scheduled exchange has taken place in order to receive a new badge. Advance requests for new badges cannot be accommodated.

Any questions regarding the ID badge exchange should be directed to the Parking Office at x6-5934 or x6-3630 or [parking@umassmed.edu](mailto:parking@umassmed.edu).

## ID Badge Exchange Schedule

### May and June

*The ID badge exchange will take place in the old Medical School Lobby on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:45 to 9:30 a.m., unless otherwise noted.*

May 15 and 17: Basic Lot & Level 1 Old Garage

May 16: Power Plant\*

May 22 and 24: Level 2 Old Garage

May 29 and 31: Level 3 Old Garage

June 5 and 7: Level 4 Old Garage

June 12 and 14: Unreserved "A" (Afternoon hours from 2:30 to 4 p.m. will be held during the "unreserved" phase of the exchange.)

*Exchanges will resume the week of July 10.*

\*Power Plant exchange will take place in the Power Plant

## grants infocus

□ **Lucio H. Castilla**, PhD, assistant professor of biochemistry & molecular pharmacology and molecular medicine: *Cooperating Genes in INV (16) Acute Myeloid Leukemia*, National Cancer Institute, one year, \$331,906; recommended for four more years, \$1.3 million.

□ **Reid Gilmore**, PhD, professor of biochemistry & molecular pharmacology: *Assembly and Transfer of N-Linked Oligosaccharides*, National Institute of General Medical Sciences, one year, \$360,750; recommended for three more years, \$1.1 million.

□ **Ronald M. Iorio**, PhD, associate professor of molecular genetics & microbiology: *Glycoprotein Interactions in Paramyxovirus Fusion*, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, one year, \$213,166; recommended for four more years, \$1.3 million.

□ **Adrienne L. Kolpak**, GSBS student in the lab of Zheng Z. Bao, PhD, assistant professor of medicine and cell biology: *Mechanism of Sonic Hedgehog-Induced Axon Growth and Guidance*, National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, one year, \$27,155; recommended for two more years, \$54,310.

□ **Craig C. Mello**, PhD, Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator, Blais University Chair in Molecular Medicine and professor of molecular medicine and cell biology: *RNA Mediated Genetic Interference in C. elegans*, National Institutes of General Medical Sciences, one year, \$333,125; recommended for three more years, \$999,375.

□ **Robert Phillips**, MD, PhD, professor of medicine: *African American Study of Kidney Disease and Hypertension Cohort Study*, King Pharmaceuticals, 18 months, \$1.5 million.

□ **Jitesh Pratap**, PhD, research assistant professor of cell biology: *Role of Runx2 in Lung Cancer Progression*, National Cancer Institute, one year, \$65,000; recommended for one more year, \$65,000.

□ **Karin Przyklenk**, PhD, professor of emergency medicine and anesthesiology: *Aging, Adenosine and Platelet-Mediated Thrombosis*, National Institute on Aging, one year, \$192,188; recommended for one more year, \$166,563.

□ **Christopher M. Sasseti**, PhD, assistant professor of molecular genetics & microbiology: *Mce Transport Systems of Mycobacterium Tuberculosis*, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, one year, \$360,000; recommended for four more years, \$1.5 million.

□ **Carole C. Upshur**, EdD, professor of family medicine & community health: *Addressing Behavior Problems in Preschool Settings*, National Institute of Mental Health, one year, \$218,646; recommended for two more years, \$402,581.

focus

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