

## AARON LAZARE, MD

Aaron Lazare, MD, is the Celia and Isaac Haidak Professor in Medical Education and professor of psychiatry at the University of Massachusetts Medical School. Dr. Lazare served as Dean of the Medical School from 1990-2007 and Chancellor of the campus, which includes the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences (opened in 1979) and the Graduate School of Nursing (opened in 1986), from 1991-2007.

Lazare received his AB in 1957 from Oberlin College and his MD in 1961 from Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine. He spent one year at Yale University Medical School before beginning 14 years of service at the Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH), rising to the rank of professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School. During his time at MGH, he built the outpatient psychiatry department into the largest and most diverse in New England, and provided leadership for founding and developing what many believe has been the most successful continuing education course in psychiatry in the U.S.

He conducted pioneering research on the importance of understanding the patient's perspective on clinical outcome and applying a negotiating paradigm to the doctor-patient relationship. He is the author of the first textbook on outpatient psychiatry, *Outpatient Psychiatry: Diagnosis and Treatment*, now in its second printing. The textbook was selected in January 1990 by the *American Journal of Nursing* as "book of the year," and in 1984 Lazare was named by *Boston Magazine* as one of Boston's leading therapists.

In 1982, Dr. Lazare accepted the position of professor and chair of psychiatry at the University of Massachusetts Medical School (UMMS). His goals were to raise the quality of the department to national excellence and to create a model relationship with the state to deliver first-class psychiatric care to patients in the public sector. For his accomplishments in this area, Lazare received the University's Distinguished Professional Public Service Award in 1988 "for exceptional achievement in serving the interests of the people of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts." The Department of Psychiatry won four subsequent awards for its public sector activities.

While chair of psychiatry, Lazare initiated an entirely new sphere of scholarly activity on the subject of shame and humiliation in medical encounters, an area in which Dr. Lazare is perhaps the national leader. His thesis focuses on the medical interview as a tinderbox for shame experiences for both patient and physician. Physicians can be taught to enhance the dignity of patients while minimizing the patient's humiliation. His other areas of academic expertise are the medical interview and the healing process of apology and forgiveness.

In 1998 Lazare was named principal investigator for the four-year multi-million dollar Macy Initiative in Health Communication by the Josiah Macy, Jr. Foundation. In conjunction with investigators from New York University and Case Western Reserve schools of medicine, Lazare will develop a standardized, competency-based communication curriculum for undergraduate medical education and cultivate faculty who will pursue a distinct career path in health communications.

Lazare's publications include 70 original articles and book chapters and six books. Many of these articles, appearing as early as the late 1960s, are still widely quoted and used as standard references for research and for clinical and training programs. Lazare's book *On Apology*, published in September 2004, examines the integral components of effective and sincere apologies and provides a deeper understanding of *interpersonal* and international conflicts and how we might resolve them through apology.

Perhaps the most influential of his many publications, *On Apology* has garnered extensive interest and accolades from academic and lay audiences alike. Major media outlets, including National Public Radio, CBS News and the British Broadcasting Corporation, have interviewed Lazare about the topic. Most recently, he published an editorial, "Apology in Medical Practice: An Emerging Clinical Skill," in the September 20, 2006 issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

In 1989, Lazare became interim dean of the medical school, and in 1990 he was named the permanent dean; later that year he became the interim chancellor of the campus permanent chancellor/dean of UMMS in 1991. Prior to Dr. Lazare's tenure the posts of chancellor and dean were separate.

In 1990, he was named to *Who's Who in America*. In 1992, he was honored on five separate occasions. The American Psychiatric Association asked him to give the Benjamin Rush Award Lecture. Bayonne High School elected him to their Hall of Fame. Together with his wife, Louise, he received the humanitarianism award from the National Conference of Christians and Jews. He was also named to *Who's Who in the World*. In 1993, he was selected by the Anti-Defamation League of New England to receive the Maimonides Award for "outstanding commitment as a physician and educator to providing quality health services and the training of health care providers in an atmosphere of sensitivity and respect to all people."

In 1995, Lazare was appointed by Governor William Weld to chair the Citizens' Task Force on Adoption. One of the group's recommendations was the establishment of a University of Massachusetts five-campus Center for Adoption Research and Policy, which Lazare founded in 1996. He was given the Children's Friend Award from the Worcester Children's Friend Society for his "commitment to strengthening families through adoption." Also in 1996, he was awarded the Genesis Club Humanitarian Award for "dedicated commitment to mental health, education, and family." In 1997 he received the Aaron T. Beck Institute Award from Assumption College for his outstanding work in the field of human relations, and was co-recipient of the Worcester *Telegram & Gazette's* Visions 2000 Citizen of the Year for 1997 for his efforts in guiding a successful merger of the clinical systems of the University and Memorial Health Care.

In 1999, Fitchburg State College awarded Lazare an honorary degree in honor of his tenure as the academic leader of one of the most distinguished public university campuses in the nation. In May 2000, he was awarded an honorary degree from the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester for his contributions to the health and humanity of the region.

In 2001, Lazare was presented with an Angel in Adoption Award by the Congressional Coalition on Adoption, a nonpartisan alliance of more than 160 members of Congress, for his efforts to improve the future for adoption and foster care nationwide and in recognition of his own experiences as an adoptive parent. Coalition member Representative Barney Frank of Massachusetts nominated Lazare for the award.

In June 2002, the medical school's new ten-story, 360,000-square-foot research facility was named for Lazare at the behest of Jack and Shelley Blais, philanthropists who donated \$21 million--the largest individual gift in the history of the University system--to recognize Lazare's accomplishments and contributions to the medical school. The Aaron Lazare Medical Research Building houses over 100 researchers on nine floors of research and office space in an open laboratory configuration that encourages collaboration and interaction among scientists.

These honors recognize a broad range of accomplishments as a practicing psychiatrist, researcher, author, educator, lecturer, leader/administrator, and humanitarian.