

focus

Medical training crosses borders

Summer is normally a time for baseball, beaches and backyard barbeques, but for 40 members of the School of Medicine class of 2011, summer was a time for broadening their medical education through global perspective.

These students traveled to 18 countries, including Brazil, Ghana, Honduras and the Dominican Republic, for language and cultural immersion as well as to visit clinical settings, assist with public health projects and shadow physicians.

The goal of these international programs, according to Michael Godkin, PhD, professor of family medicine & community health and medicine and director of the Pathway on Serving Multicultural and Underserved Populations program, is for students to develop linguistic and cultural skills that they can bring back to underserved and immigrant populations in Massachusetts.

“One of the most important things they learn from this experience is a sense of empathy,” said Dr. Godkin. “They go through many of the same feelings and hardships that somebody new to the United States might go through.”

Approximately half of all UMMS medical students will participate in overseas educational experiences before graduating. This year, some of those students benefited from the generosity of University of Massachusetts trustee Ruben King-Shaw, who funded fellowships to help cover travel expenses for 25 students. King-Shaw, who is chairman and CEO of

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Second-year medical student Natalie Cohen (left) chats with UMass Trustee Rubin King-Shaw and his wife, Patricia, at the Global Medical Education Fair last month. The fair was coordinated by the students who traveled abroad this summer to expand their cultural and medical perspectives. Cohen traveled with fellow student Olivia Zurek to Nicaragua. Their poster is “Una Experiencia Nicaraguense: de costa a costa.”

Two students named family medicine scholars

School of Medicine students Lara Jirmanus, '10, and Olga Valdman, '09, have been named Pisacano Scholars by the American Board of Family Practice (ABFP). Created by the ABFP in honor of its founder, the Pisacano Leadership Foundation selects scholars for their demonstrable leadership skills, superior academic achievement, strong communication skills, identifiable character and integrity, and a noteworthy level of community service. As two of just five honorees selected nationwide, Jirmanus and Valdman join an elite group of physicians-in-training who have demonstrated a strong commitment to family medicine and promise to be future leaders of the specialty. “It is quite rare to have more than one scholar selected from any particular school,” said Robert J. Cattoi, executive director of the Pisacano Leadership Foundation. “This speaks to the quality of candidates from UMass Medical School who embrace the philosophy of family medicine.”

“Olga and Lara are indeed extraordinary students,” said Daniel H. Lasser, MD, MPH, professor and chair of family medicine & community health. Jirmanus served as student co-coordinator of Universities Allied for Essential Medicines, led UMass student relief efforts for the victims of Hurricane Katrina and initiated an optional enrichment elective for medical students about health issues affecting Worcester residents. She founded the Central Massachusetts Coalition for Middle Eastern Peace and participated in the

Worcester Immigrant Coalition. “I’m truly honored to receive this award. It is a testament to the wonderful mentorship we have received as students pursuing careers in primary care,” said Jirmanus.

Valdman started a non-profit organization called the African Community Education (ACE) Program as an outgrowth of her participation in the Community Health clerkship group on Immigrant and Refugee Health. She has also helped to develop an alternative spring break that has led to an annual medical mission to the Dominican



Medical students Lara Jirmanus, '10 (left), and Olga Valdman, '09, have been named Pisacano Scholars by the American Board of Family Practice for their leadership skills, academic achievement, strong communication skills, character and integrity, and community service.

Republic. “I am very excited about opportunities this award brings to meet other young leaders in family medicine who are motivated and passionate about bringing the best quality care to people from all over the world,” said Valdman.

Jirmanus and Valdman will participate in the Pisacano Scholars Leadership Program throughout their last year of medical school and three years of residency, and will receive scholarship funds. The last UMMS student to be honored as a Pisacano Scholar was 2005 graduate Eleni Santos O’Donovan, MD. ■

Collins recommended as UMMS Chancellor by search committee

The University of Massachusetts Medical School Chancellor Search Committee has recommended to University President Jack M. Wilson that Michael F. Collins, MD, interim chancellor, become the permanent chancellor of the University’s Medical School campus. The 23-member Search Committee was unanimous in its recommendation, with Committee Chairman Philip W. Johnston describing

Dr. Collins as “an experienced and effective leader, a leader with a vision” and as “the clear choice.”

Now that the Search Committee has issued its recommendation, there are two more steps in the appointment process: President Wilson’s making a recommendation to the UMass Board of Trustees and the Board’s voting on the president’s recommendation.

Get in Focus

Have a story idea, a faculty, student or staff achievement, or a campus-wide event for the calendar? Send it to the *Focus* editor at focus@umassmed.edu



On the move

A number of support departments have relocated in the past year or so and a few new research entities have been established. Here's an update on where people are in light of recent moves. Other moves are scheduled to take place in the coming months and updates will be printed in future issues of *Focus*.

<i>Department</i>	<i>Former location</i>	<i>New location</i>
Bioinformatics (Zhiping Weng, PhD)	New program	LRB, 10th floor
Commonwealth Medicine (some CWM departments still have sites throughout Massachusetts)	Mostly Century Drive, but other locations as well	South Street campus, Shrewsbury
Development	Biotech One	South Street campus, Shrewsbury
Gene Therapy (Guangping Gao, PhD)	New department	Biotech Five
Ethics	Medical School, 1st floor	Medical School, 3rd floor
Human Resources*	Shaw Building	South Street campus, Shrewsbury
Information Services groups Business Relations and Consulting, Product Support and Technology and some Help Desk personnel**	Medical School, various floors	South Street campus, Shrewsbury
Public Affairs & Publications	Medical School, 1st floor	Medical School, 3rd floor
Purchasing	Shaw Building, Worcester campus	Chang Building, Shrewsbury campus (Maple Ave.)
Regional Medical Library	Rose Gordon Building, Shrewsbury campus (Maple Ave.)	Chang Building, Shrewsbury campus (Maple Ave.)
Stem Cell Bank and Registry	New program	Rose Gordon Building, Shrewsbury campus (Maple Ave.)

*A Human Resources satellite office is located in the Shaw Building in the former Purchasing space.
 **The remaining IS groups are located on the Worcester campus in the Medical School.



The South Street campus in Shrewsbury is now home to more than 1,000 members of the UMMS community, including employees from Commonwealth Medicine, Human Resources and Information Services.

Reducing commuting expenses

UMass Medical School has a number of new and existing options to help members of the UMMS community offset high gas prices while contributing to campus sustainability.

Carpooling: Commuters who are interested in carpooling are encouraged to contact MassRides, a carpooling service that matches employees with other commuters. UMMS carpoolers not only save money on gas, but also on parking by sharing the cost of a single parking space. Carpoolers also receive preferential parking.

Public transportation: Employees who live in Worcester and surrounding communities are encouraged to use the Worcester Regional Transit Authority (WRTA), the local, public transit system. The WRTA offers reliable and affordable bus service throughout the city of Worcester and 13 surrounding communities and provides a variety of special services for riders with disabilities. The WRTA buses make frequent stops at the Worcester campus and UMass Memorial Medical Center. Monthly passes can be purchased from the Parking Office, located in room HA-531.

Biking to work: For employees who wish to bike to work, additional bike racks have been installed in covered

areas near entrances to the main buildings of the Worcester and South Street campuses. Free shower facilities and lockers are also available at both sites. (Lockers at the South Street campus are for day use only, and there is a waiting list for lockers at the Worcester Campus.)

Shuttle services: A shuttle program between the Worcester and South Street campuses has been implemented to eliminate the expense of traveling between the two campuses and to make it easier for employees to leave their cars at home. The shuttle runs daily between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Flexible work options: The Flexible Work Options Policy allows employees, with their supervisor's assistance, to adopt a work schedule that may include flexible work hours, a compressed work schedule and telecommuting. To learn more about flexible work options, visit inside.umassmed.edu/hr/worklife/flexible-work.

For additional information about these services and programs, including shuttle and WRTA schedules, visit www.umassmed.edu/parking/transportation. ■

achievements

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society has named five researchers as Stohlman Scholars, recognizing their outstanding contributions to the advancement of blood cancer research. Among the honorees was **Michelle A. Kelliher**, PhD, associate professor of cancer biology, for her work on T-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia.

Wendy Marsh, MD, assistant professor of psychiatry, has been selected as the recipient of the 2008 Clinical Research Scholar Award from the UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science. The award provides support for young investigators to develop independently funded careers in clinical and translational research. Dr. Marsh's research will focus on the impact of perimenopause on bipolar disorders in women.

UMass Memorial Health Care President and CEO **John G. O'Brien**, MBA, received the William L. Lane Hospital Award from the Massachusetts Hospital Association (MHA) for his "outstanding efforts to advocate on behalf of his hospital, his commitment to his institution's mission and the impact of his work on the health care community."

"Under his inclusive, participatory style of leadership, combining fiscal responsibility and community mindedness, he has transformed the system he heads," said MHA Board Chairman Bob Norton.



Following are faculty who have joined UMMS as professors or associate professors or who have been promoted to those ranks, as reported by the Office of Faculty Administration:

- **Robert Brown**, MD, DPhil, appointed professor of neurology
- **Sybil L. Crawford**, PhD, promoted to professor of medicine
- **Patrick Emery**, PhD, promoted to associate professor of neurobiology
- **Stephenie C. Lemon**, PhD, promoted to associate professor of medicine
- **Nikki A. Levin**, MD, PhD, promoted to associate professor of medicine
- **Sanjay Ram**, MD, promoted to associate professor of medicine

Walk to Cure Cancer volunteers needed

Volunteers are needed for the Walk to Cure Cancer on Sunday, Sept. 28, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the UMMS campus. Volunteer positions available include course monitor, money room counter (for banking and accounting professionals only), money room copier, registration attendant, water stop attendants and parking attendants. For more information, contact Stephanie Ramey at x6-5552 or via global e-mail or visit www.walktocurecancer.com.



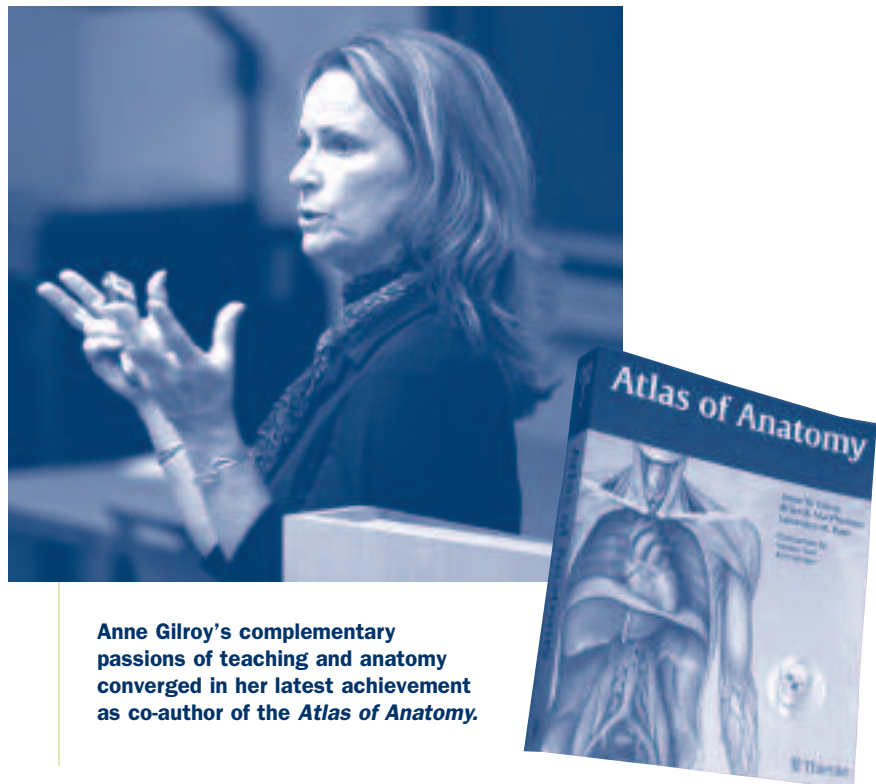
Gilroy's Anatomy

Anne Gilroy, MA, loves anatomy, loves to teach and is accomplished at both. These complementary passions have converged in her latest achievement as author of the *Atlas of Anatomy*, co-written with Brian R. MacPherson, PhD, and Lawrence M. Ross, MD, PhD. Gilroy was commissioned by the publisher to shape an innovative approach to an essential volume for medical education, resulting in an unprecedented interpretation of the classic genre. The project was a labor of love for Gilroy, assistant professor of cell biology and surgery, who teaches anatomy to students at all levels, from the gross anatomy course that is a rite of passage for new medical students, to advanced clinical topics for residents specializing in plastic surgery, anesthesiology and obstetrics & gynecology. "We're pleased that the book is being well-accepted in the anatomy community as more and more texts incorporate clinical as well as basic science for practical applications in medical practice," she said.

Working with award-winning medical illustrators, Gilroy directed the book's organization and wrote the text that amplifies 2,200 exquisite full-color drawings. The atlas leads students step by step through the regions of the body, beginning with each foundational skeletal framework. Subsequent chapters add the muscles, organs, vessels and nerves, finally presenting topographic anatomy for a comprehensive view. Each unit closes with surface anatomy accompanied by questions that ask the reader to apply knowledge learned for the real-life physical examination of patients. "What is different about our atlas is that it is a combination of a text and a picture book, with more information than simple labels for the illustrations," Gilroy explained. "It is set up differently from other atlases,

with each two-page spread covering a complete topic, including information organized in tables." This format is especially useful in the anatomy laboratory, where students can have the book open for ready reference. Companion flash cards and a Web site enhance the book with additional study tools.

Gilroy's path to her status as a respected anatomist and instructor is unique. Originally trained as a wildlife biologist, she taught undergraduate biology courses in California and at Worcester State College. Her initial affiliation with UMMS was as a student taking anatomy courses to sharpen her own teaching, where her natural gift for understanding the spatial relationships between organ structures was apparent to her instructors and ultimately led to an invitation to join the faculty.



Anne Gilroy's complementary passions of teaching and anatomy converged in her latest achievement as co-author of the *Atlas of Anatomy*.

The atlas leads students step by step through the regions of the body, beginning with each foundational skeletal framework. Subsequent chapters add the muscles, organs, vessels and nerves, finally presenting topographic anatomy for a comprehensive view.

In addition to teaching gross anatomy, Gilroy created and teaches the School of Medicine's longitudinal clinical anatomy program for third-year students, fourth-year electives and the residency programs. She is motivated by medical students'

intellect and focus on learning. "I enjoy working with students at all levels and seeing the interplay between the basic course and advanced clinical topics," she said. "The broader my teaching, the more I learn and the better I can be." ■

Medical training crosses borders

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Mansa Equity Partners, Inc., a private equity firm that invests in health care companies, said the experiences these students have abroad help them become well-rounded physicians.

Second-year student Ruth Perlmutter, who spent five weeks learning Spanish in Guatemala, said that being in a country and not speaking the

language was challenging. "Simple things, like getting around or asking for directions, were difficult," she said. "At times you feel disconnected from what's going on around you."

Now Perlmutter is more comfortable conversing in Spanish, so much so that she believes she could communicate with patients in a clinical setting. "I've learned enough Spanish

that I could have a conversation or take a history from a patient," she said.

For students David Bick and Weizhen Tan, who traveled to the island-state of Yap in Micronesia, the experience gave them a greater appreciation for medicine as a profession as well as the resources available to them at UMMS.

"There are only nine doctors to

care for 11,000 people on the island and they have limited access to equipment and facilities," said Tan. "There are times when they have to fly patients to Fiji to receive treatment or make due with what they have. You have to really love and be dedicated to helping people to do what these doctors do," said Tan. ■

employees infocus

September Employee of Distinction Award

Vitals

Roberta Lavin

Mail Clerk
Central Mail

Year started: 2004

Hometown: Worcester

Professionally Speaking

When Roberta Lavin began working in the mail room more than four years ago, it quickly became clear that she was an extraordinary employee.

"Roberta worked hard to learn the processes and routes that are a part of a high volume mail room, and she showed an attention to detail that was second only to her passion for good customer service," said Associate Director of Auxiliary Services Mark D. Neill, one of several who supported Lavin's nomination for September Employee of Distinction.

Over the last few years, Lavin's responsibilities have steadily increased from computer work and identifying mail recipients' locations to sorting and delivering mail and handling shipping and receiving orders. With the move of several large UMMS departments, including Commonwealth Medicine, to the South Street campus, it was necessary to establish a mail room at the Shrewsbury site. Director of Auxiliary Services Bill Tsakopoulos and Mail Room Supervisor Donna Calcagni identified Lavin as the right person to set it up. In June 2007, Lavin enthusiastically accepted the challenge, seeing it as a great opportunity.

Points of Pride

When Lavin accepted the South Street position, she was responsible for mail services for only eight UMMS departments that were then housed at the campus. Today, she handles mail room operations for 1,100 employees working in

the 30 departments now located at South Street.

Lavin designed the South Street's central mail room and, with the help of administrative staff, implemented satellite mail stations in departments located throughout the site. She has also streamlined courier services at South Street by establishing central pick-up and drop-off stations.

"Over the last four years, I've really enjoyed meeting everyone face-to-face and building their confidence in UMMS mail room services," said Lavin. "Every day I set out to ensure employees that their mail, be it a letter, budget information or a contract, is sent in a timely manner and handled with care."



Calendar

information infocus



Old ID badges obsolete on Oct. 1

The Office of Parking and Access Control is winding down the final phase of the yearlong ID badge exchange process. If you do not have the new Smart Card, which is vertical and has the picture in the center, you must visit the Parking Office in HA-531, open weekdays between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., and exchange your badge. You must bring your old ID and exchange it for your new one—you will not be allowed to keep both. If you do not have your old ID, you'll be charged \$10 for the new one.

You must exchange your badge by Tuesday, Sept. 30; on Wednesday, Oct. 1, the old badges will not allow you to access parking and other restricted areas.

If you have questions about the ID badge exchange, call the Parking and Access Control Office at x6-5934 or x6-3630 or send an e-mail to parking@umassmed.edu.

■ A reception for the newest installment of the Artist in Residence series, *Watercolors: People, Places, Etc.* by Christina Giza, will be held at 5 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 11, in the Lamar Soutter Library. The exhibit will be on display from Monday, Sept. 8, through Friday, Oct. 17, on the first floor of the library. For information, contact Nancy Harger at x6-3334 or via global e-mail.

■ The tenth annual Walk to Cure Cancer will be held Sunday, Sept. 28, beginning at noon on the UMass Medical School campus. The five-mile walk around Lake Quinsigamond, sponsored by Massachusetts AFL-CIO in partnership with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts, supports cancer research programs at UMMS. Registration begins at 10 a.m. Michael Damian, recording artist and star of "The Young and the Restless," will give a pre-walk concert hosted by WSRS, 96.1 FM. For more information, call event manager Tamara Hampton at x6-5512 or visit www.walktocurecancer.com.

■ The Meyers Primary Care Institute invites the submission of grant proposals for research projects that address issues relevant to primary care medicine and health services research. All UMMS, Fallon Clinic and the Fallon Community Health Plan clinical and professional staff are eligible to submit proposals. An information session for anyone interested in submitting a proposal will take place on Thursday, Oct. 2, from 6 to 7 p.m. at the Meyers Primary Care Institute. The submission deadline is Friday, Nov. 14. Applications can be downloaded from www.umassmed.edu/Meyers. For additional information, call 508-791-7392.

■ PINK, Lighting the Way to a Cure, will be held on Thursday, Oct. 2, from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Lazare Research Building. The event benefits breast cancer research and patient care at UMass Medical School and UMass Memorial Cancer Center. Admission is free. The program celebrates the lives of those touched by breast cancer with a cocktail buffet, lighting of candles, an update on the latest advances in treatment and research, and a survivor's story. Voluntary PINK candle donations are \$500 for a "Pillar of the Community" candle, \$50 per votive or \$100 for three votives. For more information or to donate for a candle, call x6-5520 or send an e-mail to events@umassmed.edu.

■ October is National Work and Family Month, which highlights the importance of employer-sponsored work-life programs. In celebration, the Work-Life Program will be offering a three-part elder care series on the Worcester campus and will also be hosting a presentation by the inspirational and humorous speaker Phil Milgrom, "Bringing Heart and Humor to Work: Transforming the Way You Think, Work and Live" at the South Street, Schrafft and Auburn campuses. For details about these offerings or to register, visit www.umassmed.edu/hr/worklife/seminars. For more information, send an e-mail to work-life@umassmed.edu.

grants infocus

□ **Schahram Akbarian**, MD, PhD, associate professor of psychiatry: *Small RNA Regulation of BDNF Expression in Schizophrenia*, National Institute of Mental Health, one year, \$362,160; recommended for four more years, \$1.5 million

□ **Elliot J. Androphy**, MD, the *Barbara and Nathan Greenberg Chair in Biomedical Research* and professor of medicine and molecular genetics & microbiology: *High Throughput Screen for SMA*, National Institute of Mental Health, one year, \$25,000

□ **Alexei Bogdanov**, PhD, professor of radiology: *Molecular Imaging to Determine the Risk of Rupture of Cerebral Aneurysms*, National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, one year, \$214,594; recommended for one more year, \$178,828

□ **Douglas T. Golenbock**, MD, professor of medicine and molecular genetics & microbiology: *Phagocyte Receptors for Lipid A*, National Institute of General Medical Sciences, one year, \$470,766; recommended for three more years, \$1.5 million

□ **Eric S. Huseby**, PhD, assistant professor of pathology: *Expanding the T Cell Response to Pathogens*, Searle Scholars Program, three years, \$300,000

□ **John J. Kelly**, MD, associate professor of surgery: *Advanced Minimally Invasive Surgery/Bariatric Fellowship*, Ethicon Endo-surgery, Inc., one year, \$75,000

□ **Katerina Mardilovich**, BS, GSBS student in the lab of **Leslie M. Shaw**, PhD, associate professor of cancer biology: *Upregulation of IRS2 by Hypoxia Protects Breast Carcinoma Cells from Apoptosis*, USA Med Research ACQ Activity, three years, \$97,200

□ **Evgeny I. Rogaevev**, PhD, professor of psychiatry: *Convergent Genetic and Expression Analysis of Small Non-coding RNA in Schizophrenia*, 2008 NARSAD Distinguished Investigator Award, National Alliance for Research on Schizophrenia and Depression, one year, \$100,000

□ **Aldo A. Rossini**, MD, the *William and Doris Krupp Professor of Medicine* and professor of medicine and molecular medicine: *Heat Shock Proteins in the Pathogenesis of Type 1 Diabetes*, The Iacocca Family Foundation, one year, \$150,000; *Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation International*, one year, \$150,000

□ **Hsin-Yue Tsai**, PhD, post-doctoral fellow in the lab of **Craig C. Mello**, PhD, Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator, *Blais University Chair in Molecular Medicine* and professor of molecular medicine and cell biology: *RDE-8 Encodes a Novel Protein with a Conserved Domain*

Required for RNAi, The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, three years, \$165,000

□ **Ajay K. Wakhloo**, MD, PhD, professor of radiology, neurology and surgery: *Interventional Neuroradiology Fellowship*, Boston Scientific, one year, \$50,000

□ **Marian Walhout**, PhD, associate professor of molecular medicine: *Identifying Transcription Factor Binding Sites in the C. Elegans Genome*, National Institute of General Medical Sciences, one year, \$607,283; recommended for three more years, \$1.9 million

□ **Zhiping Weng**, PhD, professor of biochemistry and molecular pharmacology: *Identification of Transcriptional Factor Binding Sites in Human Promoters*, National Human Genome Research Institute, one year, \$495,625; recommended for two more years, \$865,626

□ **Lan Xu**, PhD, assistant professor of molecular medicine: *Nucleocytoplasmic Trafficking of Smads*, National Cancer Institute, one year, \$66,619

□ **Robert B. Zurier**, MD, professor emeritus of medicine and cell biology: *Treatment of Rheumatoid Arthritis—Marine/Botanical Oils*, National Center for Complementary & Alternative Medicine, one year, \$13,490



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