

FOCUS

Pugnaire named Senior Associate Dean for Educational Affairs

Michele P. Pugnaire, MD, has been promoted to Senior Associate Dean for Educational Affairs. In this newly created position, Dr. Pugnaire, associate professor of family medicine & community health, will expand upon the varied UMMS leadership roles she has held since joining the faculty in 1984.

“Dr. Pugnaire has truly helped shape the UMMS educational experience and curriculum as we know it today,” said Dean of the School of Medicine and Executive Deputy Chancellor Terry Flotte. “Her involvement in our educational mission has been both broad and deep, and has been enhanced by her experience over the past year as the Medical School’s first Hedwig van Amerigen Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine Program for Women (ELAM) fellow. This perspective, combined with her experience and vision, makes this new position a natural one for her.”

In alignment with establishing the position, the School of Medicine’s educational administration, comprising the offices of Medical Education, Continuing Medical Education, Graduate Medical Education, Student Affairs and Admissions, will come under Pugnaire’s

purview. She will also serve as the Dean’s designee to the Educational Policy Committee (EPC), with a broad mandate to interact with the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and the Graduate School of Nursing and to collect and analyze data from all educational programs on the Worcester campus.

Having served as associate dean for admissions, assistant dean for student affairs and, since 1999, vice dean for undergraduate medical education, as well as project leader for the EPC’s and Dean’s Competency Implementation Project, and interim director of the UMMS Simulation Center, Pugnaire’s dedication to the educational mission of the Medical School is long-standing. Her impact on students and colleagues is reflected in the educational awards she has consistently received, and by her numerous research awards representing diverse areas of medical education.

Currently she is the principal investigator for the Massachusetts Medical School Consortium, which brings together all four medical schools in Massachusetts for collaborative work in medical education. Pugnaire has also been co-principal investigator for the UMass Macy Initiative in Health Communication grant and principal investigator on grants supporting medical education research and curriculum development including the Pfizer Sexual Health grant; the AAMC/John A. Hartford Foundation grant in geriatrics; and a National Board of Medical Examiner’s Stemmler grant on professionalism assessment and measurement.

Pugnaire is gratified with what her promotion bestows on the institution as well as her career. “By creating this position, Dr. Flotte recognizes the direction that we have been developing at UMass toward increased collaboration across the continuum from undergraduate to graduate and continuing medical education and across the three graduate schools,” she said. ■



Michele Pugnaire, MD

“Dr. Pugnaire has truly helped shape the UMMS educational experience and curriculum as we know it today.”

Dean of the School of Medicine and Executive Deputy Chancellor Terry Flotte, MD

Doxsey receives 2007 President’s Public Service Award

Stephen J. Doxsey, PhD, professor of molecular medicine, biochemistry & molecular pharmacology and cell biology, has been named a recipient of the 2007 President’s Public Service Award, presented annually by the University of Massachusetts President’s Office to faculty from each of the UMass campuses who provide exemplary public service to the Commonwealth. An accomplished leader in the study of cell division and an advocate for science education, Dr. Doxsey was honored for his efforts as co-founder of the UMass Laboratories for Worcester Area High Schools program, which brings high school students to the UMMS campus for hands-on research experiences in state-of-the-art labs.

Launched seven years ago by Doxsey and administrators from the Department of Science at Worcester’s North High School, the program involves high school students in the science of a working academic research lab. Participating faculty members teach labs in their area of expertise during the year-long course, with students making four visits to UMMS. A tremendous success with faculty and North High students and teachers, UMass Laboratories was expanded to other Worcester high schools in 2006. The expansion, which provides further opportunities for UMMS faculty to influence young, would-be scientists, added 16 junior and senior faculty as well as more than 30 graduate students and post-doctoral fellows to the program’s original faculty cohort of Doxsey, David Lambright, PhD, and Craig Peterson, PhD, profes-

sors of molecular medicine and biochemistry & molecular pharmacology; and Tony Ip, PhD, associate professor of molecular medicine, biochemistry & molecular pharmacology and cell biology.

Doxsey is a fitting role model for high school students interested in pursuing science careers. His lab is at the forefront of research, one focus being the molecular mechanisms that induce normal cells to become cancerous. This work has been funded by numerous sources, including the National Institutes of Health and National Cancer Institute.

“It is an honor to receive the President’s Public Service Award for our work with high school students,” said Doxsey. “The beauty of this program is that it is a win-win for both Medical School faculty and high school students.



Stephen Doxsey, PhD, received the 2007 UMass President’s Public Service Award in recognition of his efforts as co-founder of the UMass Laboratories for Worcester Area High Schools program. Here, he guides a North High student in hands-on science in his lab.

Faculty are overwhelmingly excited and dedicated to enriching the education, development and scientific experiences of nascent scientists, and the students are provided with a unique opportunity to work in active laboratories of world class scientists. Many participating faculty recall similar experiences with professionals or outstanding teachers as pivotal events in their decision to pursue a career in science.” ■

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



UMMS receives interdisciplinary grant from American Geriatrics Society

The American Geriatrics Society (AGS) has awarded a two-year, \$40,000 Geriatrics Education for Specialty Residents grant to UMass Medical School faculty to support joint efforts aimed at enhancing health care services for elderly patients. The grant recipients are David C. Ayers, MD, the *Arthur M. Pappas, MD, Chair in Orthopedics* and professor of orthopedics & physical rehabilitation, and his colleagues Jerry H. Gurwitz, MD, chief of the division of geriatric medicine and the *Dr. John Meyers Professor of Primary Care Medicine* and professor of medicine and family medicine & community health, and Sarah M. McGee, MD, MPH, director of education in the division of geriatric medicine and assistant professor of medicine.

The grants, which are part of the AGS Geriatrics-for-Specialists initiative, support collaborations between the geriatrics faculty and surgical and

for orthopedic care for this population,” said Ayers. “This educational partnership will improve awareness of common geriatric syndromes in

“As the number of elders in the U.S. increases, so will the demand for orthopedic care for this population.”

David Ayers, MD

related medical specialty faculty at medical schools and hospitals throughout the country. Since their inception in 2001, the grants have been funded by the John A. Hartford Foundation.

Drs. Ayers, Gurwitz and McGee will develop and implement a collaborative program with the Department of Orthopedics and the Division of Geriatric Medicine to improve the amount and quality of education in the geriatrics-related aspects of orthopedics. “As the number of elders in the U.S. increases, so will the demand

older adults in perioperative situations.”

By the year 2020, it’s estimated that roughly 20 percent of the population will be 65 or older, and approximately 80 percent of elders will experience musculoskeletal problems. The program developed by Ayers, Gurwitz and McGee will focus on enhancing the residents’ knowledge and skills in the principles of geriatric medicine as they relate to the care of older orthopedics patients. To accomplish these tasks, the program will organize and implement multidisciplinary sym-



Jerry Gurwitz, MD; Sarah McGee, MD, MPH; and David Ayers, MD, (left to right) will develop and implement a collaborative program to improve the quantity and quality of education in the geriatrics-related aspects of orthopedics.

posia, initiate resident conferences throughout the year and establish collaborative bedside rounds.

“This endeavor will serve as a model for building additional collaborative educational and clinical activities between the division and the other surgical and medical specialties,” said Gurwitz.

Additional UMMS team members include Zahra S. Sheikh, MD, assistant professor of medicine; Mary Ellen Keough, MPH, instructor in family medicine & community health; and Patricia Franklin, MD, MBA, MPH, associate professor of orthopedics & physical rehabilitation and family medicine & community health. ■

Richter receives five-year grant extension

Joel Richter, PhD, professor of molecular medicine, has received a five-year, \$1.8 million renewal of his Method to Extend Research in Time (MERIT) award from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for his research into *Translational Control in Early Mammalian Development*. Dr. Richter is one of several UMMS scientists to whom the NIH has granted this highly selective award to support continuation of their excellent records of scientific productivity. Awarded as back-to-back five-year grants, the ten-year MERIT award eases the inherent uncertainty as well as administrative burdens of the grant renewal process, allowing investigators to focus on the work.

“You never know what will happen when grant renewal time comes up,” said Richter, who received the original RO1 grant for the MERIT-funded project in 1998. “The ten-year award gives our lab stability that enables us to explore new and interesting projects.” A scientist at the Worcester Foundation for Biomedical Research prior to becoming a UMMS faculty member upon the institutions’ 1997 merger, Richter has studied translational control for more than 20 years. These genetic processes in which DNA gives rise to messenger RNA (mRNA), which in turn produces proteins that control cellular mechanisms, are responsible for numerous



Joel Richter, PhD

biological functions. Richter and colleagues have made a number of discoveries, finding that regulation of mRNA translation by a particular protein called CPEB is crucial for early egg cell development and fertility. Most recently, they have determined that translational control by CPEB also plays a role in synaptic plasticity, the ability of nerve cells to adapt in response to stimuli, which is necessary for the consolidation of long-term memory in mammals. “We found that there are mRNAs in neurons that have to be translationally activated by a phenomenon known as synaptic stimulation, which leads to the modulation of synaptic strength [synaptic plasticity],” he explained. “This process may underlie learning and memory.”

Richter praises his colleagues and UMMS for meriting the NIH’s award: “The Program in Molecular Medicine is a superb intellectual environment. Having good colleagues with varied expertise is so important, especially when trying new ideas.” ■

Lederer to deliver annual Fred Fay Lecture

W. Jonathan Lederer, MD, PhD, professor and director of the Medical Biotechnology Center at the University of Maryland Biotechnology Institute and head of its Institute of Molecular Cardiology, will deliver the ninth annual Fred S. Fay Lecture on October 29 at 3 p.m. in the Arthur and Martha Pappas Amphitheater on the Medical School campus. Dr.



Lederer’s Lecture, “Shooting Sparks: Currents, Calcium and Confocals—The Legacy of Fred Fay,” is in honor of the late Professor of Physiology Frederic S. Fay’s scientific contributions. A reception will immediately follow the lecture in the Faculty Conference Room.

For many years, scientists have recognized that intracellular calcium is an important signaling agent in cellular function, but Lederer’s discovery of how tiny changes in calcium impact signaling—now known as “calcium sparks”—completely transformed how calcium signaling in the heart is studied. His work has been instrumental in uncovering how calcium changes are regulated in cardiac, smooth and skeletal muscle cells as well as in nerve cells, leading to a greater understanding of conditions like cardiac arrhythmia and heart failure and shedding light on the influence of intracellular calcium in neuronal signaling.

Lederer earned his bachelor’s degree at Harvard University and his PhD and MD at Yale University. Since completing the British Heart Fellowship with Denis Noble, PhD, at Oxford University in 1979, Lederer has been a researcher at the University of Maryland School of Medicine. ■

Preparing for the unexpected

UMass Medical School has a long history of emergency management planning, particularly in collaboration with clinical partner UMass Memorial Medical Center, but recent tragic events, such as Hurricane Katrina and the shootings at Virginia Tech, underscore the importance of an established and effective emergency plan.

“After Hurricane Katrina, we saw how Tulane University students’ education and training were put on hold until they could be relocated to other universities,” said Charleen Sotolongo, director of Environmental Health & Safety. “Although most Medical School departments have their own emergency plans in place, we chose to move forward to broaden our planning and preparation to include a comprehensive plan for the entire Medical School community.”

Within a month of Hurricane Katrina, Sotolongo and Vice Chancellor for Operations Robert Jenal created the UMMS Emergency Management Planning Committee, which brought together members of the Medical School’s departments and divisions. Since that time, the committee has drafted a plan that ensures that certain responses are organized to address critical functions and that responses are as safe as possible during an emergency.

One aspect of the plan calls for back-up power to be supplied to specified critical areas of the Medical School, including the Emergency Operations Center—the command center for the Emergency Operations Team. Team members have specific responsibilities during a campus emergency and report to the center to prepare and disseminate information. Since the committee’s inception, team members have taken part in several disaster drills, both for the Medical

School and with UMass Memorial, and they recently put their skills to use when the main water supply to the Aaron Lazare Medical Research Building was disrupted this past summer. “Although the incident was a relatively minor emergency, it gave us an opportunity to activate the plans and open up the Emergency Operations Center,” said Sotolongo.

Since emergencies often interrupt daily operations, committee members are currently working on plans that ensure that critical functions resume and continue to operate. “In addition to our students, employees and hospital staff, many agencies and organizations rely on the Medical School and its departments, especially Commonwealth Medicine, so it’s important that critical operations can continue effectively or resume quickly,” said Sotolongo.

After the shootings at Virginia Tech, the University of Massachusetts, like colleges and universities worldwide, initiated a review of individual campus emergency notification systems. As a result, the UMMS Emergency Management Planning Committee, working in partnership with the IS Department, recently committed to purchasing emergency notification software to facilitate communicating with students, faculty and staff in the event of an emergency. And the committee is nearing final development of a Web site for information about emergencies on the



As part of overall emergency management planning, UMMS recently participated in the UMass Memorial Medical Center disaster drill. Pictured, center, is Sassan Abdollahzadeh, PhD, director of radiation safety at UMMS and assistant professor of family medicine & community health, checking a patient volunteer for radiation levels.

Worcester campus as well as other locations. During times of emergency, the Web site will be activated with details about cancellations and closings, as well as links to the emergency plan and external emergency-related Web sites.

Although the committee has developed initial plans for an emergency,

there is still a lot to be done. “Although we’ve made progress with our strategies over the last two years, we will continue developing an effective emergency preparedness plan that incorporates academic and research critical functions and meets accreditation standards,” said Sotolongo. ■

Emergency Management Planning Committee

Dorothy Amaral, *Office of the VC for Operations*
John Baker, *Facilities*
Michael Baker, *Registrar*
Chris Bunn, *Information Services*
Bill Carey, *Public Safety*
Joe Collins, *Facilities*
Tim Fitzpatrick, *Master Space Planning*
Mike Gregory, *Molecular Medicine*
Susan Hartshorn, *Program Development, CWM*
Bob Jenal, *Office of the VC for Operations*
Dan Jones, *Information Services*
Phil Kerr, *Human Resources*

Jack Luippold, *Public Safety*
Elaine Martin, *Lamar Soutter Library*
Russ Mattson, *Environmental Health & Safety*
Brian McCarthy, *Facilities*
Jay Mitchell, *Administration*
Jerald Silverman, *Animal Medicine*
Charleen Sotolongo,
Environmental Health & Safety
Mark Shelton, *Public Affairs & Publications*
Michael Stanton, *Financial Services*
Bill Tsakopoulos, *Parking and Access Control*
Nancy Vasil, *Financial Services*

employees infocus

October Employee of Distinction Award

Vitals

Gary Sadusky

Staff Accountant
Department of Pediatrics

Year started: 1995

Hometown: Spencer

Professionally Speaking

For 12 years, Gary Sadusky has contributed to the University of Massachusetts Medical School in one way or another. He first joined the institution as an outpatient records clerk in Medical Records, and after receiving his degree in accounting, progressed up the career ladder, working for the Center for Health Care Financing, Accounts Payable, the Department of Surgery and now, the Department of Pediatrics as a staff accountant.

Sadusky is a valuable resource for all who interact with him. Since last year, he has been managing the grants of more than

20 researchers within the department. His responsibilities require him to remain current on all investigators’ projects and address their research needs and expectations by ensuring that grant funds are expended appropriately. “This has been one of my most satisfying jobs at the Medical School,” said Sadusky. “Every grant proposal is different, and I am constantly learning about new research that will not only benefit children in Central Massachusetts, but also children throughout the world.”

Points of Pride

Sadusky’s commitment to the Department of Pediatrics is evident in his cooperative spirit, strong planning skills and outstanding customer service. Recently, his talents were put to use to prepare a response to a request for proposals from the National Institutes of Health. The task was complex in terms of the administrative and technical component, given that it was a \$20 million application that required a very detailed budget.

“Gary helped make this happen even though we had only a short period of time to prepare and submit a contract,” wrote nominator Thomas McLaughlin, ScD, professor of pediatrics and director of the Department of Pediatrics’

Division of Clinical Research. “This kind of contribution exemplifies Gary’s dedication to the department and his willingness to go the extra mile to help make clinical research succeed at our institution.”



Calendar

infocus
information

New dry cleaning service

As part of UMass Medical School's commitment to enhancing the work-life balance of its employees, a new on-site dry cleaning service is being offered. Jefferson Cleaners, a progressive and environmentally friendly dry cleaner, has been chosen to provide on-site pick up and delivery of employee dry cleaning on the University Campus. There is no extra charge for this service. Just bring your dry cleaning to work and Jefferson does the rest. Pick up and drop off will take place on Mondays and Thursdays at the following locations and times: Shaw Building Lobby (front of building) from 2:45 to 3 p.m.; Old Medical School Lobby from 3:30 to 4 p.m.; Lazare Research Building Lobby from 4:15 to 4:45 p.m. Additional locations may be added.

For details about how the service works, how to sign up and prices, visit inside.umassmed.edu/hr/index.aspx.

Chancellor's Forum

Tuesday, October 9, 2007
12:15 to 1:15 p.m.
Faculty Conference Room

■ To commemorate the opening of the new school year, interim Chancellor Michael F. Collins, MD, is hosting a welcome reception for students from all three schools on Wednesday, Oct. 10, from 5:30 to 8 p.m. in the Faculty Conference Room. Dr. Collins will offer brief remarks at 6:15 p.m.

■ In recognition of October as National Work and Family Month, UMMS is presenting two work-life brownbag workshops from noon to 1 p.m.: "Redesigning Retirement: Create the Life You'll Love,"

facilitated by Anita Collins, LICSW, on Tuesday, Oct. 16, in the Arthur and Martha Pappas Amphitheater at the Medical School, and "Putting Heart and Humor to Work: Transforming the Way You Think, Work and Live," facilitated by Phil Milgrom, on Tuesday, Oct. 25, in Amphitheater II at the Medical School. For additional information, contact Work-life Manager Janet Hirsch at 6-2958. To register, send an e-mail with your name and the name of the workshop(s) you plan to attend to wpl@umassmed.edu.

■ W. Jonathan Lederer, MD, PhD, professor and director of the Medical Biotechnology Center at the University of Maryland Biotechnology Institute, will deliver the ninth annual Fred S. Fay lecture—"Shooting Sparks: Currents, Calcium and Confocals"—on Monday, Oct. 29, at 3 p.m. in the Arthur and Martha Pappas Amphitheater at the Medical School. A reception in the Faculty Conference Room will immediately follow the lecture.

ID badge update and schedule

The ID badge exchange for **employees*** takes place in the old Medical School Lobby. **Students** will receive their new badges when they renew their parking permit.

If your scheduled ID badge exchange week has already passed and you did not get your new badge, you must go to the Parking and Access Control Office to complete the exchange.

For additional information, visit inside.umassmed.edu/parking and click on news & updates. Separate exchanges for UMMS employees at sites other than University Campus will be scheduled at the off-campus sites in the near future. Watch for updates on the UMMS intranet and in *Focus*.

* Individuals who park in the Clinical Lot can pick up their badges from the Office of Parking and Access Control located in Room HA-531.

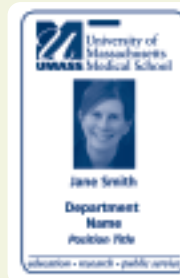
**October
Tuesday/Thursday, 6:45-9:30
a.m. and 2:30-4 p.m.**

Oct. 2 and 4: Unreserved parking, name begins with S

Oct. 9 and 11: Unreserved parking, name begins with T, U and V

Oct. 16 and 18: Unreserved parking, name begins with W, X, Y and Z

Oct. 2 and 4: Unreserved parking, name begins with S



COMECC 2007

This year's Commonwealth of Massachusetts Employees Charitable Campaign (COMECC) begins Monday, Nov. 5, and continues through Wednesday, Nov. 21. UMMS employees and students will continue their tradition of generous giving to the campaign, with a theme this year of "Circle the Bases for COMECC." Last year more than \$355,000 was raised and the COMECC raffle was again a success. All participants in COMECC are automatically entered into the raffle, and contributions of raffle items are welcome. Watch for additional details about COMECC in the coming weeks.

grants infocus

□ **Athena Andreadis**, PhD, associate professor of cell biology: *Tau Missplicing Caused by RNA Processing Proteins Located on Chromosome 21*, National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, one year, \$180,922; recommended for one more year, \$202,479.

Function of Saitohin, a Novel Protein that Confers Susceptibility to Dementia, National Institute on Aging, one year, \$184,875; recommended for one more year, \$154,063.

□ **James F. Carey**, PhD, a post-doctoral fellow in the lab of Kirsten A. Hagstrom, PhD, assistant professor of molecular medicine: *Role of Condensin in Gene Regulation and Heterochromatin Assembly in C. elegans*, National Cancer Institute, one year, \$49,646; recommended for two more years, \$104,176.

□ **Terry S. Field**, DSc, associate professor of medicine: *Proactive Risk Reduction in Medication Prescribing in the Ambulatory Setting*, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, one year, \$199,975.

□ **Robert J. Goldberg**, PhD, professor of medicine: *Observational Study of Delay in Heart Failure*, National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, one year, \$750,551; recommended for four more years, \$2.7 million.

□ **Douglas T. Golenbock**, MD, professor of medicine and molecular genetics & microbiology: *Group B. Streptococci and Toll-like Receptors*, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, one year, \$187,181.

□ **Matthew J. Gounis**, PhD, assistant professor of radiology: *Mechanical Clot Obliteration for the Treatment of Stroke*, National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering, \$383,750; recommended for two more years, \$812,500.

□ **Dannel McCollum**, PhD, associate professor of molecular genetics & microbiology: *Regulation and Function of the Clp 1p Protein Phosphatase*, National Institute of General Medical Sciences, one year, \$323,216; recommended for three more years, \$922,773.

Regulation of Cytokinesis in Fission Yeast, National Institute of General Medical Sciences, one year, \$361,599; recommended for three more years, \$1.1 million.

□ **Charles G. Sagerström**, PhD, associate professor of biochemistry & molecular pharmacology: *Role of Niz Proteins in Hindbrain Development*, March of Dimes, three years, \$267,239.

□ **Gerald A. Schwarting**, PhD, professor of cell biology: *Migration of Early Olfactory Neuronal Progenitors*, National

Institute of Deafness and Other Communication Disorders, one year, \$333,901; recommended for two more years, \$666,385.

□ **Greenfield Sluder**, PhD, professor of cell biology: *Centrosome Reduplication and Consequences of Cleavage Failure/Prolonged Mitosis*, National Institute of General Medical Sciences, one year, \$448,875; recommended for three more years, \$1.4 million.

□ **Lawrence J. Stern**, PhD, professor of pathology and biochemistry & molecular pharmacology: *Interaction of HIV Nef With Its Receptor Binding Partners*, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, one year, \$227,500; recommended for four more years, \$1.4 million.

□ **Mario Stevenson**, PhD, the *David J. Freeland Professor of AIDS Research* and professor of molecular medicine and molecular genetics & microbiology: *UMass Center for AIDS Research*, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, one year, \$1.3 million; recommended for four more years, \$5.4 million.

□ **George B. Witman**, PhD, the *George F. Booth Chair in the Basic Sciences* and professor of cell biology: *Flagellar Motility and Assembly*, National Institute of General Medical Sciences, one year, \$559,746; recommended for four more years, \$2.3 million.

focus

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