

MLK celebration speaker calls for healing in a time of hope

Members of the UMass Medical School and UMass Memorial Health Care community came together to celebrate the life and legacy of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at the 21st Annual Tribute sponsored by the UMMS Diversity and Equal Opportunity Office in January. Barbara Lewis, PhD, director of the William Monroe Trotter Institute at the University of Massachusetts Boston and associate professor of Africana studies and English, was the keynote speaker. Calling this a time of hope and healing, Dr. Lewis urged members of the community to honor Dr. King's legacy by fulfilling our individual obligations to one another and elevating humanity. Lewis, who is a theater historian and playwright, has published widely on lynching, as well as performance and the black arts movement of the 1960s. She also covered the arts in New York, writing for *Essence* and *Ms.* magazines, the *Amsterdam News* and *Soho Weekly*.

Lewis spoke directly to those in or about to join the medical profession, saying, "Hippocrates notwithstanding, sometimes doctors do inflict harm, and sometimes they pull back from doing everything they can to make a situation better. They are human. We are all human, and sometimes we fail to do what we should." She reminded them of King's sentiment that there is no higher calling than doing what is required. She also urged them to choose patients over profits by going into primary care.

In addition to Lewis, Chancellor Michael F. Collins and UMass Memorial President Walter H. Ettinger spoke, both reflecting on the significance of this year's celebration in the context of the election of Barack Obama, a fulfillment of a significant part of King's dream. And for the first time, the traditional song "Lift Every Voice and Sing" was performed by a UMass Memorial staff member: Leslie T. Clark, a senior charge processor in the Central Business Office. She also led the audience in singing "We Shall Overcome." ■

MLK Remembrance speaker Barbara Lewis, PhD, urged members of the community to honor Dr. King's legacy by "doing what is required."
Inset: UMass Memorial staff member Leslie T. Clark



Lewis urged members of the community to honor Dr. King's legacy by fulfilling our individual obligations to one another and elevating humanity.

UMass Medical School recognized for community engagement

UMass Medical School, with support from UMass Memorial Health Care, was selected for 2008 Community Engagement Classification by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, a recognition of the "collaboration between institutions of higher education and their larger communities—local, regional/state, national, global—for the mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and resources." While the Carnegie Foundation recognized 119 U.S. colleges and universities with this classification, UMMS is the only medical school to earn this distinction as a "Community Engaged Campus." In addition, the four other University of Massachusetts campuses—Amherst, Boston, Dartmouth and Lowell—now hold this classification.

"It is clear that our academic health sciences center shares with the Carnegie Foundation the belief that to be relevant, education must be focused on community needs," said UMMS Chancellor Michael F. Collins and UMass Memorial Health Care President and CEO John G. O'Brien in their letter to the Carnegie Foundation. "For more than 30 years our faculty and students have forged far-reaching partnerships with a wide range of communities . . . relationships that have 'informed, enriched, and strengthened our curriculum.'"

Institutions are classified in one of three categories: curricular engagement; outreach; and partnerships. UMMS was recognized for all three, as detailed in a 39-page document submitted to the Carnegie Foundation to provide descriptions and examples of practices of community engagement that showed

alignment among mission, culture, leadership, teaching, resources and practices. Among the examples cited to illustrate how UMMS and UMass Memorial engage with the community and deliver a message about the importance of such engagement to students, patients, staff and faculty were partnerships such as those built by Commonwealth Medicine, the Medical School's role in the grassroots organization Common Pathways and long-standing support of Mass AHEC; curricular engagement through programs such as Community Health Clerkships, Pathway on Serving Multicultural and Underserved Populations and the Regional Science Resource Center; and outreach such as the work of the Infant Mortality Task Force, the student-run Center for Healthy Kids and the Worcester Pipeline Collaborative.



The comprehensive documentation was compiled by a number of UMMS and UMass Memorial colleagues, notably Michael E. Huppert, MPH, affiliate in family medicine & community health and pediatrics; Suzanne Cashman, ScD, associate professor of family medicine & community health; Monica Escobar Lowell, UMass Memorial Vice President for Community Relations; and representatives of the other UMass campuses.

"We hope that by acknowledging the commitment and accomplishment of these engaged institutions, the Foundation will encourage other colleges and universities to move in this direction. Doing so brings benefits to the community and to the institution," said Carnegie President Anthony S. Bryk in a statement.

For a list of institutions classified this year, visit:
www.carnegiefoundation.org/files/assets/2008_community_engagement.pdf

Among the outreach projects sited in the Carnegie documentation was the Regional Science Resource Center, which spreads the word about science and math careers to thousands of middle school students and provides tools and resources for teachers.

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

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Luzuriaga appointed associate provost for global health

Katherine F. Ruiz de Luzuriaga, MD, professor of pediatrics and molecular medicine and director of the Division of Pediatric Immunology, has been appointed to the newly created position of associate provost for global health. In this capacity, Dr. Luzuriaga will work directly with Dean Terence R. Flotte to enhance and expand UMass Medical School programs in global health improvement and disease management while she continues performing her other scholarly and academic roles.

“This is an exciting opportunity to leverage the breadth and depth of institutional expertise to make a global impact.”

Katherine Ruiz de Luzuriaga, MD



Katherine F. Ruiz de Luzuriaga, MD

“Dr. Luzuriaga brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in global health issues and a passion for improving health around the world to her new role,” said Dr. Flotte in announcing her appointment.

Luzuriaga will have broad latitude in developing the Office of Global Health to coordinate and optimize the Medical School’s current and future endeavors in global medicine with the goals to elevate global medicine to a more visible, high-impact initiative; develop a network of international activities that can inspire UMMS medical, nursing and basic science students as on-site teachers and practitioners; and enhance training of health care providers internationally.

The Office of Global Health will also work with the Office of Research to help coordinate specific clinical trials and epidemiological studies as these opportunities arise.

Luzuriaga, who joined the UMMS faculty in 1990, is an internationally recognized pioneer in reducing the transmission of HIV from mothers to newborns, especially in resource-poor, developing countries. After earning undergraduate degrees in biology and biochemistry from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a medical degree from Tufts University School of Medicine, she chose UMass Memorial for a three-year research fellowship in infectious disease in order to work with fellow-HIV research pioneer John

L. Sullivan, MD, professor of pediatrics, molecular medicine, molecular genetics & microbiology and pathology, before joining the Medical School faculty. Her groundbreaking research has been published in *The New England Journal of Medicine* and featured in NOVA’s “Surviving AIDS.”

"This is an exciting opportunity to

leverage the breadth and depth of institutional expertise to make a global impact. I look forward to working with individuals across UMMS to develop clinical, educational and research programs that improve health care delivery and reduce disease burdens around the world,” said Luzuriaga. ■

Visiting physician gathers precious tools and knowledge

When pediatrician Emilia Jumbe Marsden, MD, boarded her return flight to Zambia after a three-week visit to UMass Medical School and UMass Memorial, tucked inside her luggage were precious medical instruments she will use to establish an asthma management program at her home hospital, University Teaching Hospital in the capital of Lusaka. Dr. Marsden, whose visit was hosted by the Department of Pediatrics and coordinated by Patricia A. McQuilkin, MD, assistant professor of pediatrics, and Michael E. Huppert, MPH, affiliate in family medicine & community health and pediatrics, received the equipment from the manager of a warehouse in Brockton that sends donated used medical equipment to needy countries around the world. The Meyers Primary Care Institute and UMass Memorial Health Care also supported Marsden’s trip.

Marsden is hoping to use what she learned to not only establish a pulmonary clinic, but also to help encourage the Zambian government to recognize asthma as a critical health issue and provide inhalers to the children and adults who need them. Currently, it is unknown how many Zambians have asthma.

“Asthma is one of the top ten reasons for hospital admission in Zambia,” Marsden said.



Michael E. Huppert, MPH, with Emilia Jumbe Marsden, MD, who visited UMMS and UMass Memorial on a mission to learn as much as possible about treating asthma with the hope of establishing a pulmonary clinic in her native Zambia.

Although Zambia provides national health care to its citizens, Marsden says there are few doctors—about 500 in a country of 12.5 million—and the care of illnesses like asthma is inconsistent and not standardized. In addition, albuterol inhalers, common in the United States, are not on the national formulary and are too expensive for the average Zambian, who earns about \$2 a day.

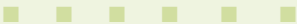
Marsden learned how the U.S. health care system manages patients. “I have learned to identify which of my patients will benefit from a respiratory test and which patients I can manage otherwise,” she said. ■

achievements

■ **Jay S. Himmelstein**, MD, professor of family medicine & community health and medicine and chief health policy strategist for Commonwealth Medicine’s Center for Health Care Financing, was recently inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame as “Outstanding American from the State of Maryland.” Dr. Himmelstein was Maryland state champion, state outstanding wrestler and honorable mention All-American while wrestling for Baltimore City College High School.

■ **Michael Hirsh**, MD, professor of pediatrics and chief of the UMass Memorial Division of Pediatric Surgery and Trauma, was elected the first president of the newly restructured national Injury Free Coalition for Kids, a consortium of 46 hospital-based injury prevention programs nationwide, all affiliated with Level One Pediatric Trauma Centers.

■ **Peter Paige**, MD, assistant professor of emergency medicine and vice chair of the UMass Memorial Department of Emergency Medicine, was named vice chair of the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Medicine. Dr. Paige was appointed to the board in 2006 and currently chairs its Complaint Committee.



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

Joseph Arcidi, MD, appointed associate professor of surgery
Jean A. Frazier, MD, appointed professor of psychiatry
Aldo A. Rossini, MD, appointed professor *emeritus* of medicine and molecular medicine
Carolyn Stalvey, MD, appointed clinical associate professor of medicine

Eric Baehrecke, PhD, promoted to professor of cancer biology
Arthur Church, MD, promoted to clinical associate professor of medicine
Pranoti Mandrekar, PhD, promoted to research associate professor of medicine
Haley Melikian, PhD, promoted to associate professor of psychiatry
Jayendra Patel, MD, promoted to associate professor of psychiatry

School of Medicine curriculum redesign

Advancing a vision for change

As new medical knowledge and changes in health care delivery advance, curriculum changes must continue apace. In 2005 the School of Medicine began the comprehensive process of reshaping the curriculum to align with the six competencies adopted in 2003 for medical education: physician as scientist, communicator, clinical problem solver, patient and community advocate, and person.

Initially dubbed the Competency Implementation Project (CIP), in its first phase, or CIP 1, the project explored the rationale for moving toward a competency-based curriculum and prioritized the areas of the curriculum in need of attention. In its second phase (CIP 2), work groups concluded that major restructuring of the existing curriculum would be required in order to implement a competency-based curriculum comprising four key areas: foundational studies, core clinical experiences, senior studies and longitudinal programs. Now in its third phase of detailed design and implementation, the project has been renamed the Learner-centered Integrated Curriculum (LInC). Each phase has benefited from participation by diverse faculty, administrators and medical students.

“When completed, the School of Medicine curriculum will be very different from the one we have now,” said Melissa Fischer, MD, MEd, assistant professor of medicine and chair of the LInC trustees. Major changes will be:

- Courses that integrate faculty and concepts across scientific disciplines

rather than being departmentally based;

- Basic science content spread throughout all four years;
- Increased flexibility for students to shape their own experiences, including earlier opportunities for students to take clinical electives and individually designed capstone projects that will be required for graduation;
- Focused transitional curricula to ease students’ progression, first from college to medical school, then from foundational to core clinical courses and, finally, from medical school to residency.
- The creation of learning communities that pair students with peers from other class years and faculty members to work together throughout all four years.

“We are working to use technology creatively to support diverse educational opportunities and enhance student learning,” added Dr. Fischer. For example, LInC increases the use of computer-aided simulation activities, and ceiling-mounted computers in the anatomy laboratory will



Part of the inclusive process of redesigning the curriculum was a series of daylong retreats. At the last retreat, Dean Terry Flotte presented the new curriculum framework, which was later unanimously approved by the Educational Policy Committee in 2008.

integrate clinical imaging into the first-year experience, as well as expand the laboratory’s use during the clinical years. LInC also emphasizes team-based and inter-professional teaching and learning with shared educational experiences across the School of Medicine, Graduate School of Nursing and Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences.

The curriculum redesign will help UMMS and UMass Memorial Health Care achieve major goals of the joint Academic Health Sciences Center Strategic Plan finalized in 2008, primarily those to build the workforce of the future and to design an ideal learning environment. It will also support the plan’s goals to translate discovery into practice; be a high-performance organization; and have significant world impact. Synergy between curriculum redesign and

expansion of the School of Medicine class size will further address the increased demand for well-trained health care providers in Massachusetts and beyond.

While the School of Medicine curriculum will look much different than it does now, the defining characteristic of the curriculum redesign is not new at all: LInC exemplifies and continues the tradition, long-established at UMMS, of making ongoing refinements, updates and additions through a continuous process of evaluation, review and renewal by faculty in partnership with students. “We are redesigning education by using what we’ve learned from research and experience here and in other institutions and building on our established strengths in all areas,” concluded Fischer. ■

Warm someone’s heart

The first Emergency Assistance Fund Drive is Valentine’s Day week

Wouldn’t it feel good to help one of your co-workers in a time of great need? We all share concern for fellow community members who find themselves unexpectedly in challenging financial circumstances. To make

helping each other easier, the Medical School has established the Emergency Assistance Fund.

Established on January 1, 2009, the fund is available to any benefited UMMS employee who is experiencing

temporary financial hard times resulting from an emergency. Designed to help address a need that is temporary, sudden and non-recurring, the fund can help by providing limited financial assistance when an employee is

unable to meet immediate, essential expenses and has exhausted other available avenues. Grants of up to \$1,000 in a 12-month period are available. These are not loans and don’t

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employees infocus

February Employee of Distinction Award

Vitals

Yvette Rodriguez

Lead Family Partner

Worcester Communities of Care, Department of Psychiatry

Year started: 2000

Hometown: Worcester

Professionally Speaking

Yvette Rodriguez has channeled her personal experience as the mother of a child with severe emotional and behavioral disturbance into her professional career. As lead family partner for Worcester Communities of Care (WCC), Rodriguez trains and manages a staff of four family partners who provide peer-to-peer support for families who receive the program’s comprehensive wraparound services, helping

them to keep their at-risk children at home, in school and in the community. Since joining WCC at its inception as a federally funded pilot, Rodriguez has been instrumental in bringing the local programs to their status as national models. “The quality of our direct work with families as well as the reputation of the program has benefited directly from her efforts,” wrote Rodriguez’s nominators, WCC Project Director Suzanne Hannigan and Supervisor Anthony Irsfeld, PhD, assistant professor of psychiatry. “Her willingness to share her own struggles makes her a great role model for all staff.”

Rodriguez is a member of Massachusetts government subcommittees developing the Children’s Behavioral Health Initiative, selected for her understanding of the unique role of the Family Provider within the wraparound process. She has

also promoted increased cultural competence and diversity among staff and the agencies and care providers with whom they collaborate to provide comprehensive services to children and families.

Points of Pride

“My work allows me to pass on what I have learned to other families,” said Rodriguez. Noting that she didn’t know what support and resources were available when her son was young, Rodriguez is most proud of her staff and their mission to educate providers and ensure that family members are empowered to navigate the system. “This job is very hands-on. They are all doers,” said Rodriguez.



Calendar

infocus

information

Utility project update

Because of the ongoing utility project, the valet parking area for the Remillard Family Pavilion was reconfigured and the through-traffic lanes adjacent to this area (Second Road) were reduced from two lanes to a single lane. In order to minimize traffic back-ups created by stopped vehicles, **effective Monday, Jan. 26, employee drop off/pick up will no longer be possible in this area until further notice.** Instead, please use the area near the Medical School entrance on First Road (across from the old garage).

From the beginning of February through about mid-April, a fenced pedestrian bridge will be in place between South Road (across from the new garage) and the Remillard Family Pavilion area as the trench is expanded across Second Road. By utilizing this pedestrian bridge, construction crews are able to work in the trench during business hours without disruption to pedestrian and vehicle traffic flow.

Warm someone’s heart

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require repayment, but are treated as regular income, and are subject to ordinary income tax withholding.

Similar to the Sick Leave Bank, in which many employees already participate, the Emergency Assistance Fund is made possible by the generous support of UMMS employees. Employees may voluntarily contribute up to four hours of earned vacation time per year, which will be converted to its net cash value and contributed to the fund; employees may also make direct cash donations to the fund. The first Emergency Assistance Fund Drive takes place Valentine’s Day

■ A memorial for GSBS student Jennifer Songer will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 11, from 4 to 6 p.m. in the Blais Pavilion of the Lazare Research Building. Details of the program are still being finalized, but a campus-wide invitation will be distributed by e-mail prior to the event. Everyone is welcome.

■ The Lamar Soutter Library, in collaboration with the Diversity and Equal Opportunity Office, is hosting the National Library of Medicine’s traveling exhibit *Opening Doors*, which chronicles the history of African-American surgeons. The exhibit will be on display from Sunday, Feb. 1, through Friday, March 27, in the library. A kick-off event featuring Nsidinanya Okike, MD, professor of surgery, will take place in the Faculty Conference Room at noon on Thursday, Feb. 12.

■ UMMS will host the forum “Flexible Work Options in Difficult Economic Times” on Wednesday, Feb. 25, from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m., in the Faculty Conference Room. The forum is presented by the Women’s Bureau of the U.S. Department of Labor and the New England Human Resources Association; Work-Life Senior Manager Janet Hirsch will serve as a panelist.

■ On Wednesday, March 4, Dr. Anne Taylor Kirschmann, will present the talk “Nineteenth-Century Women Physicians and the Homeopathic Choice” as part of Women’s History Month. The program takes place from noon to 1 p.m. in the Faculty Conference Room. The doors open for lunch at 11:30 a.m. Please RSVP to Nellie Toney via global e-mail. This event is sponsored by the Women’s Faculty Committee and the Diversity and Equal Opportunity Office.

■ The Seven Hills Symphony will hold their spring concert on Sunday, March 8, at 5 p.m. The concert at the First Unitarian Church will feature performances by the young musicians who won the Concerto Competition Seven Hills sponsored last fall. For more information, contact Joanna Chaurette via global e-mail or visit www.shsymphony.org.

■ Save the date! The third annual Commonwealth Medicine Academic Research Conference, *Transforming Health Care: The Impact of Translational Research*, will take place on Thursday, April 16, at the Doubletree Boston/Westborough Hotel. The conference will feature a keynote presentation by John Saultz, MD, assistant dean at the School of Medicine, Oregon Health and Science University, and a special roundtable discussion on Massachusetts legislative initiatives, chaired by Chancellor Michael F. Collins. Continuing education credits will be offered. For more information, visit inside.umassmed.edu/commed/CHPR/Academic_Conference.

grants infocus

□ **Becky A. Briesacher**, PhD, assistant professor of medicine: *Cost-Related Underuse of Medications and the Health of Older Adults*, National Institute on Aging, one year, \$124,940; recommended for four more years, \$499,760

□ **Jason J. Chen**, PhD, associate professor of medicine: *Induction of Genomic Instability by HPV E6 and E7*, National Cancer Institute, \$305,492; recommended for four more years, \$1.2 million

□ **Silvia Corvera**, MD, professor of molecular medicine and cell biology: *Adipose Tissue-Specific Angiogenesis and Insulin Sensitivity*, National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, one year, \$245,250; recommended for one more year, \$205,000

□ **Terry S. Field**, DSc, associate professor of medicine: *Risk Informed Intervention to Improve Ambulatory Drug Monitoring and Safety*, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, one year, \$290,722; recommended for two more years, \$585,524

Using HIT to Improve Transitions of Complex Elderly Patients from SNF to Home, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, one year, \$340,525; recommended for two more years, \$750,596

□ **Robert J. Goldberg**, PhD, professor of medicine, and **Frederick A. Spencer**, MD, associate professor of medicine: *The Worcester Venous Thromboembolism Study*, National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, one year, \$817,624; recommended for three more years, \$2.2 million

□ **Jason K. Kim**, PhD, professor of molecular medicine: *Interleukin-10 and Regulation of Skeletal Muscle Insulin-Action*, National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, one year, \$327,167; recommended for four more years, \$1.3 million

□ **Egil Lien**, PhD, associate professor of medicine and molecular genetics & microbiology: *The Role of LPS-TLR4 Signaling in Live Vaccine-Induced Protective Responses*, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, one year, \$429,763

□ **Shan Lu**, MD, PhD, professor of medicine and biochemistry & molecular pharmacology: *Multi-gene Subunit Vaccine Platform Against Y. pestis*, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, one year, \$402,600; recommended for three more years, \$1.3 million

□ **William J. McIlvane**, PhD, professor of psychiatry: *Translational Studies of Neurobehavioral Effects of Mercury Exposure*, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, one year, \$58,929; recommended for one more year, \$57,054

□ **Andrzej Z. Pietrzykowski**, MD, PhD, research assistant professor of psychiatry: *miRNA Genetics in Alcohol Addiction*, National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, one year, \$133,135; recommended for four more years, \$560,000

□ **Steven M. Reppert**, MD, the *Higgins Family Professor of Neuroscience* and professor and chair of neurobiology: *Circadian Clock: Differential Cryptochrome Functions*, National Institute of General Medical Sciences, \$335,346; recommended for three more years, \$1 million

□ **Aldo A. Rossini**, MD, the *William and Doris Krupp Professor of Medicine* and *emeritus professor of medicine and molecular medicine*: *Interdisciplinary Studies in Hormone Function*, National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, one year, \$31,290

focus

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