

The Vibe @

December 2010

Happy Holidays!

As we look toward a new year of opportunities, the students, faculty and staff at UMass Medical School are working through a vibrant time here, embracing exciting new challenges in our curriculum and learning environment that are making all of us better teachers and, ultimately, better physicians.

In this issue of The Vibe, we introduce the School of Medicine's (SOM) new Learner-centered Integrated Curriculum, reflect on the inaugural annual White Coat Ceremony, and celebrate the distribution of the annual UMMS Alumni Association scholarships, which have the power to change the course of individuals' lives. We profile an alumna whose work in family medicine, medical education and research remains closely knitted to the SOM's world-class clinical education that still roots her, nearly 20 years after earning her medical degree. And we detail UMMS' recently-awarded HRSA grant to lead a national study of joint replacement surgeries, which is further testament to our academic health sciences center's high standing among the country's best research institutions.

Be sure to check out event listings and opportunities for you to stay connected with your fellow alumni. If you have news you'd like to share or have suggestions for future issues of The Vibe, drop us a note at alumni@umassmed.edu or call the Office of Alumni Relations at 508-856-1593. We look forward to hearing from you!

Wishing you and your family a festive holiday season and a healthy New Year,

Irvin (Irv) Heifetz, MD '79

SOM Alumni Association President

Andrew (Andy) Miller, MD '79

SOM Alumni Association VP/Treasurer



The School of Medicine



Redesigned Curriculum a Vibrant Transformation

SOME IMPROVEMENTS are best made from the inside out, creating a refreshed self with a renewed approach. That is what this year's first-year UMMS students are experiencing, as the new Learner-centered Integrated Curriculum (LInC) becomes their roadmap to learning the practice of medicine under a redesigned program. The fundamental change in the way courses are constructed weaves basic science and clinical practice throughout all four years, harnesses the power of technology and creates synergistic opportunities for the exchange of knowledge among students from all four class years.

▲ Pictured are members of the first class of Learning Communities mentors.

Tomorrow's physicians are learning differently—on their own and from faculty mentors and fellow students.

All students now work as part of one of five social and academic “houses” made up of 100 students—25 from each year, overseen by faculty mentors. Within “houses,” students in upper classes teach what they have learned through clinical experience, while newer students talk about the latest teaching methods or information gathered from evolving technology. These learning communities will allow for more inter-class interaction, where historically students in the first two years rarely

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UMMS Leading Nationwide Joint Replacement Surgery Outcomes Initiative

UNDER A \$12 MILLION GRANT from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), UMMS is leading a multi-center research study to guide clinical care and health care policy of a procedure that is expected to grow exponentially and could improve quality of life for more than four million Americans.

Total joint replacement (TJR) surgery is becoming an increasingly important clinical and public health issue. "We expect the number of total joint replacements to increase by 600 percent in the next 20 years as the population ages and the prevalence of obesity increases," said the study's principal investigator, Patricia D. Franklin, MD, MBA, MPH, the Joy McCann Professor for Women in Medicine, professor of orthopedics & physical rehabilitation and family



medicine & community health. Through an in-depth outcomes assessment of TJR surgery, UMMS will establish a nationwide registry of 33,000 diverse patients treated by 130 orthopedic surgeons in various practice settings, including six high-volume centers, nationwide. Investigators will research joint replacement failure and technical or mechanical issues; the impact of the replacement on the patient's mobility, function, pain and quality of life; the value of TJR in younger patients; and disparities in TJR use among certain ethnic, socioeconomic or demographic groups.

UMMS' expertise in orthopedics, data analysis, outcomes research and

health policy create a firm foundation for this project. Ultimately, the researchers are focused on measuring the real human outcomes of TJR surgery for all patients—those over 65 and those who are active, working adults under 65—so that they experience successful outcomes—pain relief and increased mobility and function. ■

Redesigned Curriculum

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crossed paths with students in their clinical training.

Faculty mentors, selected through a competitive application and interview process, will play a critical role as teachers, career advisors and role models for students. Mentors will teach new LInC courses such as Doctoring & Clinical Skills and Physical Diagnosis, as well as clinical, longitudinal and transitional curricula. The team of 20 faculty mentors includes two SOM alumni: Jennifer Bram, MD '05, assistant professor of pediatrics and Timothy E. Gibson, MD '99, chief, Hanshaw Pediatric Hospitalist Service, UMass Memorial Children's Medical Center. ■

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May

Alumni Reunion

SATURDAY, MAY 14, 2011

Celebrating years: 1976, 1981, 1986, 1991, 1996, 2001 & 2006

JUNE

Alumni Association Graduation Breakfast

FRIDAY, JUNE 3, 2011

38th Commencement Ceremony

SUNDAY, JUNE 5, 2011

12 noon

Campus Green, UMass Medical School

Note: Additional events will be added for the spring and summer.

For more information about these events, contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 508-856-1593, email alumni@umassmed.edu or visit www.NetworkUMass.com/Medical.

Save the Date:

May 14, 2011



Reunion information will continue to arrive in the coming months via email and U.S. mail. If you need to update an e-mail address with us, please e-mail alumni@umassmed.edu. If you are interested in helping to reach out to classmates to generate excitement about your Reunion, contact Diana.Tsotsis@umassmed.edu. Visit the alumni webpage, www.NetworkUMass.com/Medical, to reconnect with classmates and friends and finalize your plans to celebrate reunion.

Alumni Scholarships: Power to Transform Lives

TWENTY-TWO STUDENTS graciously acknowledged the power of the scholarships they received at the UMMS Annual Alumni Association Scholarship Dinner. Their deeply moving, personal stories inspired faculty, alumni and supporters. The need-based scholarships can be truly life-changing, especially for first-generation students pursuing a

medical career.

Over the years, the Association has awarded over \$659,000 in scholarships and loans, supported by donations by alumni and friends. UMass Medical School is entering a new chapter in its dynamic history and building our financial aid endowment is a top priority. For many of our students, the dream of

becoming a physician would simply be out of reach without financial aid. A dedicated financial aid endowment will make it possible to provide the best education possible while assuring that it also remains financially within reach for all. UMMS

alumni can continue to transform young people's lives and make lifelong dreams possible through their generosity. ■



▲ Awards totaling \$42,500 were presented at the UMMS Annual Alumni Association Scholarship Dinner held September 29.



UMMS' Inaugural White Coat Ceremony.

First-year students received their white coats, donated by the Class of 2010 in a symbolic "passing of the torch" to the next generation of medical students, at UMMS' inaugural White Coat Ceremony. Keynote speaker Jordan M. Cohen, MD, of George Washington University, urged students to view white coats as an opportunity to "reveal your compassion."

THE POWER OF PARTICIPATION

Leaders, educators, caregivers, collaborators, discoverers, mentors....you are the alumni of the University of Massachusetts Medical School. From past to present and future, annual giving links you together. When you participate, you join forces to support world-class education for those following in your footsteps.

Alumni support is critical to enhancing the student experience and leads directly to exceptional patient care and research. Participation is on the rise and we hope you partner with us on a continued trajectory of success. Just three years ago, alumni participation was at 15%. Last year alumni participation reached 27% and we strive for consistent growth on an annual basis. Help us keep the momentum going. It is through the power of participation that you demonstrate that making a difference starts with you—our alumni.

Participate. Every gift has impact. Make a difference.

Leave a Legacy to UMass Medical School....

The Heritage Society recognizes donors who support UMass Medical School through bequests, life-income gifts, retirement plans, life insurance policies, and other estate intentions.

You may make an online gift at <http://w3.umassmed.edu/OnlineDonation> or send your contribution to UMass Medical School Development Office, 333 South Street, Shrewsbury, MA 01545.

CALLING ALL PHYSICIANS

UMass Memorial Medical Group is a multispecialty practice with over 900 physician members with faculty appointments at the University of Massachusetts Medical School. The Medical Group invites you to discover how their tremendous growth, commitment to translational and clinical research, growing national reputation and tremendous sense of community can help build your career. **For more information, please email Physician.recruitment@umassmemorial.org or call 508-334-8779.**



The School of Medicine

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To submit information to be
considered for this newsletter, send
an e-mail to alumni@umassmed.edu.

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Alumni Profile | Elizabeth Steiner, MD



SOM Class: 1991

Specialty: Internal Medicine

Using research-based knowledge of medical education techniques and processes to benefit up-and-coming physicians is a passion of Elizabeth Steiner, MD—and one that was sown through her work with UMMS clinical instructors nearly 20 years ago. “We have to take medical education methodology as seriously as we do developing medical

interventions,” says Dr. Steiner, associate professor of family practice at Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU).

The clinical instructors who taught and mentored her at UMMS have had a career-long influence on her approach to training tomorrow’s family physicians and in her decision to specialize in family medicine. “UMass was an early user of teaching communications skills and exam skills through standardized patients, and it had such an impact on me because it made so much sense as a way to learn,” she explains. Through critical experiences of a family medicine preceptorship during her first two years and the strength of her rotations, she learned the critical importance of one-on-one physician training and mentoring.

Dr. Steiner served her residency in family medicine at OHSU and completed a fellowship in 2006 there, with a Certificate in Human Investigations. While her research

currently focuses on medical education, she also has conducted investigations in breast cancer and clinician education in clinical breast exams. She serves as a co-chair on the Institutional Review Board (IRB) at OHSU and is the director of the Breast Health Education Program in the OHSU Knight Cancer Institute. “The (UMMS) clinical teachers gave me a solid foundation of how to interact with patients, and as I supervise residents in clinic now, I’m quoting one of my teachers at least every week! I try very hard to emulate (them) when I think about what it means to be a really good physician.” ■

Anyone with news to share is encouraged to send their class notes to alumni@umassmed.edu. You may also submit notes by visiting the UMass Alumni Online Community at www.NetworkUMass.com/Medical and clicking on “Class Notes.”