



Vital

The Magazine of
The University of Massachusetts Medical School



Partners in Service



On the Cover: Why do our faculty and staff place such a priority on community service? Here are just a few of the reasons. (Photo taken at the UMass Memorial Child Care Center—Memorial and Lincoln sites.) From left: Katerina Aleksandrova, daughter of Ilya Alexandrov, Molecular Medicine; Saniyah Gaines, granddaughter of Jerry Gaines, Memorial West 2 Nursing Department; Hongazhe (Peter) Fang, son of Zhiyou Fang, Cell Biology; Sophie Kassini, daughter of Marie-Louise Kassini, Orthopedic South 3; John Robert (J.R.) Baldor, son of Robert Baldor, MD, Family Medicine & Community Health; Victoria Chamberlain, daughter of Lynn Chamberlain, Program in Gene Function & Expression; Keith Angelescu, son of Amanda Angelescu, Pediatric Endocrinology

Vital: the plural of life

The name of this magazine encompasses the lives of those who make up the University of Massachusetts Medical School (UMMS) community, for which it is published. They are the medical, research and nursing students; faculty; staff; alumni; volunteers; benefactors and others who aspire to help UMMS, Massachusetts' only public medical school, advance the health and well-being of the people of the commonwealth and the world through pioneering advances in education, research and health care delivery.

As you read about this dynamic community, you'll frequently come across references to UMMS partners and programs, including the following:

Commonwealth Medicine

UMass Medical School's innovative public service division that assists state agencies, nonprofits and managed care organizations to enhance the value and quality of expenditures and improve access and delivery of care for at-risk and uninsured populations.
www.umassmed.edu/commed

The Research Enterprise

UMass Medical School's world-class investigators, who make discoveries in basic science and clinical research and attract more than \$193 million in funding annually.

UMass Memorial Foundation

The charitable entity that supports the academic and research enterprises of UMass Medical School and the clinical initiatives of UMass Memorial Health Care by forming vital partnerships between contributors and health care professionals, educators and researchers.
www.umassmed.edu/foundation

UMass Memorial Health Care

The clinical partner of UMass Medical School and the Central New England region's top health care provider and employer.
www.umassmemorial.org

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Partners in Service

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The University of Massachusetts Medical School and its many partners provide numerous and varied outreach initiatives, represented in spotlighted programs.

Three New Chairs Join UMass Medical School

Three accomplished leaders in education, research and patient care were recruited by UMass Medical School in 2008.



Shalesh Kaushal, MD, PhD, is chair of the reconstituted Department of Ophthalmology. Dr. Kaushal comes to Worcester from the University of Florida College

of Medicine, where he served as assistant professor of ophthalmology and director of vitreoretinal services.



Julia V. Johnson, MD, chairs the Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology. Dr. Johnson was most recently at the University of Vermont College of Medicine, where she served

as vice chair of gynecology and professor of obstetrics and gynecology.



And Catarina Kiefe, PhD, MD, is chair of the new Department of Quantitative Health Sciences. Dr. Kiefe joins UMMS from the University of Alabama at Birmingham, where she was professor of medicine and

biostatistics, leader of the Minority Health Research Center research program and director of the Division of Preventive Medicine.

Shalesh Kaushal, MD, PhD

Kaushal's research dovetails with translational gene therapy research already underway at UMass Medical School in the Advanced Therapeutics Cluster, and he will be instrumental in the design of future retinal gene therapy trials. He has recently published research on the use of gene therapy to treat a type of congenital human blindness. "I'm looking forward to contributing to the research and health care missions of UMass Medical School and UMass Memorial Medical Center," said Kaushal. "Given the high caliber of the research programs and people here, it is a very attractive place for my lab to continue its basic and translational research to develop therapies for retinal and optic nerve disorders."

Kaushal intends to partner with community-based ophthalmologists to provide greater access to care close to home for patients in the Central Massachusetts communities served by

UMass Memorial. "We are particularly eager to support Dr. Kaushal in the expansion of the department and addition of clinical faculty," said John G. O'Brien, president and CEO of UMass Memorial Health Care.

Kaushal graduated from Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and received a PhD in biochemistry from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he studied with Nobel Laureate Har Gobind Khorana.

Julia V. Johnson, MD

With extensive expertise in reproductive endocrinology and infertility, Johnson will enhance care for patients at the UMass Memorial Women's Center, which averages 48,000 visits and more than 4,000 births each year. Johnson is actively researching alternate forms of hormonal contraceptive and menopausal hormone therapy, including current pharmaceutical trials

examining transdermal hormone therapy and traditional Chinese herbal therapy. Additionally, she is involved in research on the effect of menopause on sexual function, as well as the effect of progestin and non-oral contraceptives on coagulation factors and thromboembolic risk.

"The Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology is well-known for educating future physicians and leaders in our specialty and providing the highest quality medical care to the women of Central Massachusetts. It's an honor to join the excellent physicians and staff," said Johnson.

A 1984 graduate of the Medical College of Georgia, Dr. Johnson also completed her residency in obstetrics and gynecology there.


Catarina Kiefe, PhD, MD

Kiefe is a clinical epidemiologist and general internist with significant

Silverman Family Endows Chair for UMass Medical School

methodological expertise. Her main research interests are in health services and outcomes research, specifically ethnic disparities in health care, and measurement and improvement of quality of care, areas in which she has published widely. While still an active clinician, Kiefe was founding director of the Center for Outcomes and Effectiveness Research and Education and of the Deep South Center on Effectiveness at the Birmingham Veterans Administration.

Kiefe earned a doctorate in mathematics at the State University of New York at Stony Brook, and her medical degree at the University of California, San Francisco. She completed residency training in internal medicine at the University of Minnesota.

Kiefe will guide the Department of Quantitative Health Sciences (DQHS) in enhancing the clinical and translational research enterprise at UMMS. The DQHS is organized around three academic divisions: Medical Informatics and Implementation Science; Biostatistics; and Epidemiology of Vulnerable Populations and Chronic Diseases. By consolidating, linking and expanding resources for quantitative methods and study design at UMMS, the DQHS will promote team-based research programs across quantitative, clinical and basic science disciplines. 




At a December 2008 reception on the UMMS campus to celebrate the new Silverman Chair, Victor Ambros, PhD, presented his research to colleagues and friends, including from left, Vice Provost for Research John Sullivan, Chancellor Michael Collins and Scott Silverman and his father, Jeff Silverman.

UMass Medical School cell biologist Victor R. Ambros, PhD, has received numerous prestigious awards for his discovery of microRNA, the single-stranded RNA molecule that plays a critical role in gene regulation. His latest honor is a family matter: Dr. Ambros was named the *Silverman Chair in Natural Sciences* with an endowment from H. Scott Silverman and his father, Jeff Silverman.

The endowment stems from their long-time friendship begun when the younger Silverman completed his honors research thesis under Ambros' guidance at Dartmouth College. This research led the 1997 Dartmouth graduate to a Keasbey Scholarship at Oxford University, where he earned a doctorate in clinical molecular genetics. Today, Dr. Silverman is co-managing director of Agman Partners, a multi-strategy investment fund he co-founded with his father.

"I feel incredibly honored that Scott and Jeff Silverman have made this generous contribution to UMass Medical School and

that I will be the first incumbent of their chair," said Ambros. "This is especially wonderful for me personally, since Scott has been a close friend of mine and my family for a long time. As we go forward with our research, in a very real sense, the Silvermans will be our partners."

With the establishment of the *Silverman Chair in Natural Sciences* through the extraordinary generosity of the Silverman family, UMMS currently has 31 named positions, precious and essential resources for the Medical School. Endowments increase the ability to attract and retain individuals distinguished in their fields. Named chairs and professorships also provide an opportunity for donors to contribute to the enrichment of the academic and scientific environment. "Jeff and Scott Silverman have chosen to support research efforts at our medical school and in doing so, recognize an exceptional scientist and faculty member in Victor Ambros," said Michael F. Collins, MD, chancellor of UMMS. 

Vita: Year in Review

UMMS Receives \$2 Million Grant to Transform Geriatrics Training

No matter their specialty, every physician will need targeted training to address the special health care needs of the elderly, a patient cohort growing to unprecedented numbers.

Affirming its commitment to prepare its trainees for this demographic shift, UMass Medical School has been awarded a \$2 million grant from the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation, one of the largest private foundations in the United States. The UMMS award, one of ten grants made in 2008 by the foundation as part of its Aging and Quality of Life Program, will support implementation of a comprehensive geriatrics curriculum across the span of medical training for students, residents and practicing physicians. UMMS will commit additional funding in excess of \$1 million to support the initiative.

Grant co-investigators Michele P. Pugnaire, MD, associate professor of family medicine & community health and senior associate dean for Educational Affairs, and Jerry Gurwitz, MD, the *Dr. John Meyers Professor of Primary Care Medicine*,

professor of medicine and family medicine & community health and chief of the Division of Geriatric Medicine, bring foundational expertise in researching and implementing best practices in geriatric care and curriculum development. “The time is right for this project at UMass Medical School,”

said Dr. Pugnaire. “We are in the midst of a major curriculum redesign, and aging has been endorsed by our curriculum committees and redesign teams as a unifying theme for all components of our new curriculum.”

Specific initiatives of the four-year UMMS project will include an integrated educational program in geriatrics spanning undergraduate and graduate medical education, with faculty development

focusing on the principles of providing high quality care to the elderly; a new Geriatrics Education Resource Center to bring together the essential state-of-the-art educational services, technologies and expertise in curriculum development; a special program to educate chief residents across the medical and surgical specialties regarding the unique considerations in providing care for older patients; and the recruitment of new geriatrics faculty. ☉



The Reynolds Grant award to UMMS resulted from the work of, from left: Jerry Gurwitz, MD; Mary Ellen Keough, director of Educational Programs for the Meyers Primary Care Institute; LInC Project Manager Tricia Drone; Sherly Jean-Bart of the Office of Educational Affairs; Director of Grants and Special Projects Emily Ferrara; Michele Pugnaire, MD; Sarah McGee, MD, MPH; and Mary Zanetti, senior director of Research and Evaluation.

New International Fund Awards First Scholarships



Chancellor Michael Collins (center, red tie) and Craig Mello, PhD (to Collins' right) presented fellowships to students before a gathering of more than 600 at Sichuan University.

The Craig Mello–University of Massachusetts Fellowship Fund awarded its first fellowship grants in late 2008. Scholarships were presented to 13 Sichuan University students from the China Key Lab of Biotherapy by a UMass Medical School delegation that included Nobel Laureate Craig C. Mello, PhD, Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigator, *Blais University Chair in*

Molecular Medicine and professor of molecular medicine and cell biology; Chancellor Michael F. Collins; and Dean Terence R. Flotte.

Established in August, the Mello–UMass Fund was created in response to the devastating earthquakes that took place last May in the Sichuan region of China. The goal of the fund is to provide financial support for aspiring

Novel Cancer Suppressor Gene Identified with RNAi

Metastasis—the spreading of cancer from a primary tumor to other places in the body—is the major cause of deaths from solid tumor cancers, and the biological processes that advance metastasis and cause tumors to spread are complex,



Michael Green, MD, PhD, with graduate students in the lab

controlled by multiple genes. While numerous genes that promote metastasis have been isolated, genes that suppress a cancer's ability to metastasize have traditionally proven more difficult to identify.

But scientists at UMass Medical School in the lab of Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator Michael R. Green, MD, PhD, the *Lambi and Sarah Adams Chair in Genetic Research* and director of the Program in Gene Function and


Expression, have developed a systematic method for screening the genomes of cancer cells to detect likely metastasis suppressors.

In a paper in the November 1, 2008, issue of the scientific journal *Genes & Development*, Green and colleagues used two techniques—a three-dimensional cell culture system in conjunction with genome-wide RNA interference screening—to identify novel genes that suppress metastasis

in a common and deadly form of cancer called melanoma. Both the discovery of at least one previously unknown genetic pathway that appears to suppress the spread of cancer and the method of using cell cultures suspended in a

three-dimensional system that assist identification of aggressive metastatic cancer cell colonies are important advances at the frontier of cancer biology and genetic expression.


Green, et al identified a batch of 22 genes that, when “knocked down” or silenced, increases metastasis without impacting primary tumor growth. Focusing on one of the genes, *Gas1*, subsequent experiments demonstrated that this gene had all of the expected properties of a melanoma metastasis suppressor gene. Further experiments are needed to examine the other 21 genes, but Green thinks they are highly likely to be suppressors of metastasis for a variety of cancers.

“Metastasis is an important part of cancer biology, but it is a complex process and a tough problem to study,” said Green. “The most exciting part of the paper is not necessarily that we have found this one metastasis suppressor but that we’ve developed a general approach that can be used to find others—and we can do it with any type of cancer cell.” 

scientists whose educational pursuits were hindered by the damage from the quakes. UMass and UMMS have a number of existing academic, educational and research collaborations with Chinese universities and organizations and have been building partnerships that foster educational program expansion for American and Chinese students and faculty. This scholarship fund is a natural

extension of these collaborations and is at the heart of the institution's educational and public service mission.

Upon establishment of the fund, Dr. Mello pledged \$10,000 and UMass and UMMS together hope to raise an additional \$90,000. Fellowships are expected to be awarded annually by application and recipients will be required to report on their academic progress.

Contributions to the Mello–UMass Scholarship Fund can be sent to the UMass Memorial Foundation, Attn: Mello–UMass Scholarship Fund, 333 South Street, Shrewsbury, MA 01545. Gifts can also be made online at www.umassmed.edu/foundation. 

A by-product of today's tumultuous economic times is a focus on the quantifiable. On both a global scale and a personal level, we are thinking about numbers: numbers to save; numbers to spend. At UMass Medical School, we, too, are concerned with numbers, especially those that are exposed to the larger economic forces at play.

CHANCELLOR'S MESSAGE

But there are other numbers that have incredible value to our medical school community and will remain significant to us when the downturn has passed: those are the numbers of people our students, faculty and staff reach out to in the communities where they live, work and study.

Every day, in ways as varied as they are numerous, members of the UMMS community are actively and passionately engaged in the surrounding communities. This annual report highlights some of those many and innovative outreach initiatives we undertake with our collaborators in the academic, business and philanthropic fields.

On the following pages, you will read about a medical student who partnered with a community to launch a Saturday school where African immigrant children improve their educational skills. Also, you will discover a program that encourages young people to hone their musical skills while bringing to the residents of Central Massachusetts the beauty of a symphony orchestra. Additionally, the potential of a scientific career will be revealed to you as it is to the hundreds of students each year who visit our world-class laboratories. These are just three examples, among many, of our commitment to and passion for community engagement.

Certainly, part of this passion is attributable to our professional roles in helping to care for more than a million people in the region, and perhaps many more millions throughout the world whose lives are affected by the work undertaken on our campus. Our physicians and researchers do not want simply to understand diseases; they want to eradicate them. As a result, often you will find members of the UMMS community on local boards of health and infant mortality task forces, as well as working with immigrant communities and creating new opportunities for youth.

By partnering with schools, community groups and social service organizations, we are able to extend the UMMS reach into places



where we can make a difference. Through the creating and sustaining of relationships with the social and cultural fabric of the region—and indeed, much of the world—we provide both real role models and real-world help for the next generation of nurses, doctors, researchers and leaders.

The spirit of engagement that exists at UMMS is impressive. To underscore it, we will continue to catalog our service efforts and initiatives over the course of a year and report our work to the community. To enhance it, we will respond to the unmet needs around us through the energy, resolve and creativity of our students, faculty and staff. I believe firmly that the work we do in our cities, towns and neighborhoods is as important as what we do in the classroom, clinic and laboratory.

Those achievements are captured in this annual report as well. You will learn about the recruitment of exceptional faculty to chair both established and new departments, and who will bring an innovative vision of education, research and health care; the latest discoveries in cancer research; and, beginning with this 2008 Annual Report, the accomplishments of our alumni through the addition of the “Class Notes” section.

We conclude the annual report with a first-person account of service to the community. The enduring message of the “Last Word” is that “there are no milestones or benchmarks against which we should be evaluating the service we do to help others;” except, perhaps, for the number of those we reach out to through our community engagement efforts.

Michael F. Collins, MD
Chancellor, University of Massachusetts Medical School
Senior Vice President for the Health Sciences,
University of Massachusetts



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WORCESTER COMMUNITIES OF CARE

Youth with complex emotional and behavioral challenges often require tailored care and services to meet their needs. While hospitals and specialty institutions can be appropriate components of a continuum of care for some, others can live successfully within their communities when they have access to the right support. UMass Medical School's Communities of Care program is dedicated to helping area youth lead productive and happy lives at home. The program advocates for an integrated system of care for families by providing comprehensive mental health and support services.

Under the guidance of the UMMS Department of Psychiatry and comprising three initiatives, the program cultivates a welcoming community and family-focused environment that engages service providers, youth and their families, natural supports, such as friends and neighbors, churches and sports programs.

Worcester Communities of Care serves youth ages 3 to 21 and their families who live in the city through the Coordinated Family-Focused Care (CFFC) program of the Massachusetts Behavioral Health Partnership. Initiated with a grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration in 1999, Worcester Communities of Care provides wraparound services that embody a "whatever it takes" approach, providing families with a designated care manager and family partner who identify and coordinate services with the family

that are youth-guided, family-driven, culturally sensitive, community-based and individualized. The success of Worcester Communities of Care set the stage for the development of CFFC, which has five programs throughout the state and includes the original Worcester-based program.

Building upon this wraparound approach to meeting the needs of families in the greater Central Massachusetts area, Central

Mass Communities of Care was developed to focus on families outside the city of Worcester, serving youth ages 10 to 18 with complex emotional and behavioral challenges. "The families really helped us to design this program," said Project Director Suzanne Hannigan. "They helped write the job descriptions and were part of the hiring process."

"There was a true community team that was invested in the beginnings of this project," added Susan Galvin, care manager for CFFC and marketing coordinator for Central Mass Communities of Care.

The goal of the program is to enhance the system of care in Central Massachusetts for these youth while reducing juvenile justice involvement. Now in its third year, Central Mass Communities of Care has opened two community-based youth and family centers to provide families with a variety

Worcester Communities of Care provides wraparound services that embody a "whatever it takes" approach, providing families with a designated care manager and partner who identify and coordinate services that are youth-guided and family-driven.



“The families really helped us to design this program. They helped write the job descriptions and were part of the hiring process.”

-Suzanne Hannigan, project director

The Central Massachusetts Communities of Care family centers in Webster and Fitchburg provide a range of activities and programming in a warm, family-friendly environment to help youth build essential skills and promote community involvement. Activities include movie nights, outings to local parks and hip-hop dance classes, above.

of support and networking opportunities that address service gaps and improve school outcomes, using evidence-based practices. “The juvenile courts really trust these two centers and are willing to divert youth to them,” said Hannigan. “They have been champions for the family centers.” An ongoing national evaluation outcomes study of eligible youth participating in the program is indicating significant improvements in behavior and school attendance and a reduction in delinquent behavior.

The Training and Learning Collaborative, the third Communities of Care initiative, was established in 2003 in response to community requests for training on collaborative approaches with families from Communities of Care staff. Communities of Care has been well-positioned to provide customized training to state agencies, school districts, clinicians and parent groups in Central Massachusetts and beyond. Training is conducted by both a

provider and a family member with experience in coordinating this type of care.

“Ours is a grant that is designed to help systems change,” said Toni DuBrino, director of Family Involvement and Training. “Our training has helped to do that in the departments of Mental Health and Children and Family Services, among others.”

ONLINE:
Communities of Care
www.mass-communitiesofcare.org



THE WALK TO CURE CANCER

Worcester resident Don Hodes, 72, considers himself an active member of the community and a philanthropist, quietly supporting a number of local institutions. For decades he has been involved in the Hudson Hoagland Society, fascinated by the scientific work of the Worcester Foundation for Biomedical Research and UMass Medical School. Ten years ago, his interest in research took on a new focus, when he was diagnosed with multiple myeloma, a cancer of the plasma cells, and given a grim prognosis. Fortunately, his treatment at UMass Memorial Medical Center, though arduous, has worked well, and he recognized the role research has played in his care and his current good health. “There were very few treatment options then,” he recalled, “but now there are many more, and others are being developed all the time because of huge advances in research.”

Shortly after his diagnosis, Hodes participated in the Walk to Cure Cancer, then a new event to raise money for cancer research at the Medical School. In September 1999, the inaugural Walk began in a parking lot across the campus from the construction site that was soon to yield the Aaron Lazare Medical Research Building (LRB). Three thousand walkers strode around Lake Quinsigamond then, and over the years of the walk, funded the fit-out of laboratory space in the gleaming new 360,000-square-foot research facility and pledged their support to the growth of the UMass Memorial Cancer Center and the work of its researchers. The Cancer Center occupies an entire floor in the LRB and includes faculty working in the areas of

cancer genetics, growth regulation of cancer cells, cancer epidemiology and new approaches to treatment of cancer, including gene therapy.

Almost a decade later, Hodes is still walking, joined by 14,000 other walkers—including 450 teams—who gathered at the 2008 event from across the city and state to make a stand against cancer. Each person and team has a reason for walking: to honor a loved one lost to cancer; to support someone undergoing treatment; to celebrate a success story; to help raise awareness; to have a hand in finding a cure. Together they have raised more than \$6 million to fund cancer research at UMMS and have steadfastly maintained the momentum that has fueled the Walk’s

Don Hodes (above) has walked with thousands since 1999, making the Walk to Cure Cancer Central Massachusetts’ largest single-day fundraiser.

growth, ensuring that subsequent years will bring us even closer to a cure.

Looking beyond the Walk’s fund-raising successes, Hodes sees it as an important community event for the emotional impact it has on participants and especially patients. Being surrounded by 14,000 walkers, he said, “makes you realize you are not alone, you are not forgotten.” Hodes’s cancer is incurable but treatable and requires close monitoring and constant vigilance, something that he has learned to take in stride. He is particularly pleased to see so many young faces at the Walk: school-aged children involved in teams, college students and young families. “When I was young, nobody talked about cancer. I think it’s important for young people to be aware of cancer. They do get involved, for themselves and their friends and family. They help support the work being done at the Medical School, for now and the future.”

ONLINE:

The Massachusetts AFL-CIO
Walk to Cure Cancer
www.walktocurecancer.com



SEVEN HILLS SYMPHONY

A cellist who loves science, MD/PhD student Joanna Chaurette pursued a double major as an undergraduate at UMass Boston and has always sought ways to combine the two. “Music is a release from the intensity of medicine and research, and it’s nice to be part of a group of like-minded people,” she said. But when Chaurette began her studies at UMass Medical School in 2005 and found no community orchestra to join in Worcester, she started one herself. Now in its fourth year, the Seven Hills Symphony showcases the talents of the many musicians within the Medical School community. The current roster of 33 members includes students and faculty, several of their family members and UMass Memorial employees, as well as musicians from surrounding communities.

As it provides a creative outlet for amateur musicians, Seven Hills Symphony also offers the community access to free or very affordable world-class music. (When admission fees are charged, the funds are used to support future performances and community outreach, including educational scholarships.) Under the direction of Chaurette’s husband, bassist and conductor Scott Chaurette, Seven Hills has presented two concerts annually since 2006. They’ve been held at the Medical School campus and at other area venues, including Worcester Technical High School.

With the help of Associate Vice Chancellor for School Services Deborah Harmon Hines, PhD, Chaurette forged a partnership with then Worcester Public Schools Superintendent James Caradonio that allowed Seven Hills to perform in the

auditorium at the new Worcester Tech facility. While the general public was charged a small admission fee, all Worcester Public School students were admitted for free, as were their guests. “We wanted to encourage as many students as possible to experience live classical music in a comfortable environment,” said Chaurette. The concert produced the biggest turnout ever for Seven Hills.

In another undertaking to capture the imagination of young and aspiring local musicians, Seven Hills sponsored a Concerto Competition for area students. The prize was a scholarship to fund further musical study as well as an opportunity to perform at an upcoming Seven Hills concert. “The committee of judges was so impressed with the quality of the young musicians, they were unable

Students Mackenzie Melemed, at piano, and Christopher Coyne, playing oboe, rehearse with members of the Seven Hills Symphony.

to choose just one winner,” said Chaurette. In the end, Storrs, Connecticut high schooler Charles Colwell and Paxton, Massachusetts eighth grader Mackenzie Melemed tied for first place, with Christopher Coyne, a junior also from Paxton, receiving the first runner-up prize. All three will perform with Seven Hills at the spring 2009 concert.

The competition itself was a remarkable experience for the students, many of whom treated the opportunity to audition as a recital for friends and family. The competition was held at M. Steinert & Sons in Worcester and would not have been possible without their support. “I loved it,” said Coyne of his first competition. “I’ve always believed that music was something to be shared and it was great to have the chance to do that.”

Seven Hills plans to continue to grow and to connect with the larger community. In addition to their annual concerts, they plan to participate in the St. Paul’s Music Festival, part of the *Cathedral Music in Worcester* series, and will sponsor the Concerto Competition annually.

ONLINE:
Seven Hills Symphony
www.shsymphony.org



UMASS LABS FOR WORCESTER AREA HIGH SCHOOLS

Christine Oslowski stands in a UMass Medical School research lab surrounded by high school students who hang on her every word. A second-year student in the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, Oslowski is describing the steps the students will take to transform circularized double-stranded DNA molecules. As the experiment progresses, they get it, a testament to Oslowski's preparation for their visit.

Oslowski can relate to them on another level—like these sophomores, juniors and seniors, she was once a student at Worcester's North High School who visited a lab at UMMS through the same program they are participating in. Each year, more than 200 Advanced Placement (AP) Biology students from the four public high schools in Worcester attend *UMass Labs for Worcester Area High Schools*, the brainchild of Professor of Molecular Medicine Stephen Doxsey, PhD, and North High science teacher Jane Raabis. *UMass Labs* has grown from cell mitosis experiments in Dr. Doxsey's lab to three other AP-specified hands-on projects in the labs of 16 UMMS scientists. In 2007, Doxsey received a University of Massachusetts President's Public Service Award in recognition of the program's outreach to additional students.

Oslowski always liked science and her own high school trip to UMMS answered questions she had about how a real lab functions. Now as an instructor for the students who visit the lab of Associate Professor of Molecular Medicine Fumihiko

Urano, MD, PhD, Oslowski is an in-the-flesh example of someone who has emerged from high school and college to train at the graduate level as a basic science researcher. Several students said the North High graduate inspired them.

"They saw someone whose hard work has paid off, giving way to a very bright future in science," said Raabis. "I'm sure Christine had no idea that she really had a profound impact on the females in the class."

"The students are exposed to scientists and see that we are normal people. They also see that this is a professional setting. And they come to value science and learn its importance," said Oslowski.

Dr. Urano is sold on the *UMass Labs* program for that very reason. "My primary purpose is to tell high school students that scientists are the creators of the future," said Urano. "By showing them new technology and providing new information, I believe they will be more motivated as students. And in the future, this will come back to all of us in society," through the support that results from scientific awareness and breakthroughs that impact disease.

Raabis accompanies her AP Biology

"The *UMass Labs* program brings to Worcester high school students the opportunity to step off the bus into a research environment where they can try their hand at an experiment, get the real dope on research through conversations with graduate students and take a drive on state-of-the-art equipment."

-Stephen Doxsey, PhD



students to UMMS; they are taking the class to potentially place in higher level science courses in college. The *UMass Labs* experience is invaluable for these future scholars, according to Raabis. “I’ve had kids come back from college and say science courses made much more sense because they had done it at the Medical School. This is the real deal and they remember this.” Raabis noted that all of the faculty and staff involved in the program “speak to the students on their level.”

In Doxsey’s lab, Research Associate and Lab Manager Sambra Redick spends hours preparing materials for the students’ visit. She attempts to connect basic science to patient outcomes in order to bring home the implications of the experiments. The students’ positive responses are evident in the form of two posters they created in thanks, now hanging in full view. “They tell us some of the most valuable information they learned is not in the AP book,” said Redick. “They also see that half of the lab is women—that’s important for the girls.”

Doxsey noted that the students find the program valuable for stretching their class lessons in a new direction. The academic, biotech and business sectors in Central Massachusetts potentially benefit as well, he added. “One could think of these students as home grown prospects for scientific research who might be enticed

to seek careers in science in the Worcester area as they seriously consider what they would like to do with their lives.”

The students get to UMMS thanks to the work of Joseph Buckley Jr., Science & Technology Engineering Curriculum Liaison for the Worcester Public Schools, a more than 40-year veteran of the district and overseer of 41 schools and their science programs. The WPS provides funding for bus transportation to the labs. “Urban kids need so much; they need advocacy. You have to build that and then support it,” he said of his role. “If you are going to have high quality students, you must have a diversity of educational experiences.

“The *UMass Labs* program is absolutely wonderful for our students,” Buckley added. “They would never have the experience of having a facility and contact with people who do research without it. UMass Medical School is a cornerstone resource for us.”

ONLINE:

Worcester Public Schools science initiatives

www.wpsweb.com/science

North High school students surround Christine Oslowski (holding test tube) and are rapt as she shows them the results of their hands-on experiment in the lab of Fumihiko Urano, MD, PhD, (far left). Oslowski prepared the students prior to the lab work with a lecture (center photo). Dr. Urano joins in at right, offering his knowledge to the budding scientists.



SUMMER RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP FOR UNDERGRADUATES

Annie Wang had a difficult experience in a research lab as a college freshman, but her passion for bench science was rekindled when she participated in the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Summer Research Fellowship Program at UMass Medical School.

Now a first-year medical student in Rhode Island, Wang worked in the lab of UMMS Associate Professor of Medicine Pranoti Mandrekar, PhD, exploring the relationship between alcohol and the body's immune system. "It was a great opportunity for me," Wang said on her first day of medical school in January 2009. "It was the first time I was really able to work independently in a lab, running my own experiment, testing my own gels. But at the same time, I had the support and guidance of Dr. Mandrekar and the entire lab."

Started in 1993 and funded by the NIH and UMMS, the Fellowship Program strives to diversify the pool of biomedical researchers

and attract underrepresented groups through hands-on experience and exploration.

"The real-life experience students gain from this program can have a significant impact on their decision to pursue biomedical research as a career option," said Mandrekar, who has been hosting undergraduate students from the program in her lab for six years. "It's more than an academic experience. Students learn what it means to be in a research environment where there are no time constraints."

More than 230 undergraduate students from the local community and around the country have participated in the Fellowship Program since its inception,

and 76 of those students have gone on to pursue biomedical research at the graduate school level, enroll in medical school or join the ranks of professionals in research laboratories. At UMMS, three former fellows have enrolled at the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences (GSBS) while approximately 20 others have entered the School of Medicine.

Zaida Ramirez-Ortiz is a graduate of the Fellowship Program who is currently a fifth-year GSBS student, researching how a particular fungal pathogen activates a subset of immune cells during infection. "I came undecided as a fellow about pursuing medical school or graduate school. Experience at the bench decided it for me," said Ramirez-Ortiz, who also noted the access she had to minority research faculty during the Fellowship. Their input about career paths was very helpful to her; she now contributes to the program by helping today's Fellowship students polish their poster projects.

"It has long been documented that students from disadvantaged backgrounds aren't adequately prepared for a science profession," said Vice Provost for School Services and Professor of Cell Biology Deborah Harmon Hines, PhD, who directs the Fellowship Program. Dr. Hines said that many of these students have not been exposed to science as a career option because they are the first members

"The real-life experience students gain from this program can have a significant impact on their decision to pursue biomedical research as a career option.... Students learn what it means to be in a research environment where there are no time constraints."

-Pranoti Mandrekar, PhD



of their family to go to college or their communities don't have adequate access to resources for students to learn more about scientific careers.

The NIH Fellowship Program fills this gap each year by providing 24 undergraduate students the opportunity to conduct a complex lab experiment, mentored by a UMMS faculty member, from start to finish. Students learn how to develop a hypothesis, keep a lab book and report findings.

"After 10 weeks, they might find that their experiments don't work," said Hines. "But they come away with a real idea of what the field is all about, what a career in the sciences might be like and whether this might be something they want to do with their lives."

ONLINE:

NIH Summer Research Fellowship

www.umassmed.edu/summer/index.aspx

Zaida Ramirez-Ortiz (above) is a Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences student who attended the NIH Fellowship Program when she was a sophomore in college. The experience helped her decide to attend the GSBS. "As a minority student, I had the opportunity to come to UMass Medical School and work with outstanding faculty and researchers. It shows that if you work hard and overcome educational and cultural barriers, you too can be an example for the next generation." At left, the 2008 NIH Fellows gather in the UMass Medical School lobby with Summer Undergraduate Research Opportunity participants.

More than 230 undergraduate students from the local community and around the country have participated in the Fellowship program since its inception. At UMMS, former fellows have enrolled in the GSBS and the School of Medicine.



NATIONAL CHILDREN'S STUDY

In the summer of 2010, a new family will begin to grow in Worcester County, with each new addition eagerly awaited by faculty at UMass Medical School. One thousand Worcester County babies will be born into MassCHILD, the UMMS arm of the National Children's Study (NCS). Their growth and development, and that of 99,000 other babies nationwide, will be followed until their 21st birthdays, as part of the largest-ever examination of child health and environment.

A true community effort, the NCS will deploy a small army of field researchers, environmental experts, obstetricians, pediatricians, nurses and community leaders to recruit and track infants from selected neighborhoods in Worcester County—*before* they're born or, in some cases, even conceived. Vast amounts of data collected about the children's health and environments will be combined with similar data from 104 other sites across the country to provide vital new insights into the effects of environmental and genetic factors on human growth. Conclusions of the NCS are expected to help the United States set environmental, social and health policy that will affect millions of people—in Worcester and even the world—for generations to come.

The prestigious award, worth \$16 million for the first five-year phase, was granted to UMMS in large part because of the deep roots UMMS has in the community, and the array of partnerships formed between UMMS, UMass Memorial Health Care, and the organizations

and families throughout the county. Faculty members from the departments of Medicine, Obstetrics & Gynecology and Pediatrics, led by Pediatric Chair Marianne Felice, MD, demonstrated clearly in their proposal for the award that UMMS had the commitment of area birthing hospitals, community groups, and other resources—including assistance with demographic and environmental sampling from Clark University—necessary to successfully undertake this complex work. "Without the commitment of parents in the community, such a study would not be possible," Felice said. "Through their participation, the children of Worcester County and the Medical School will together be making an historic contribution to the nation. And the children who participate in the study will be helping to set policy for pediatric care of their own children in the future."

During the early years of the study, the infrastructure needed to carry out this complex research project will be established. After all, to be successful,

all aspects of the study must follow a strict research protocol. What is done in Utah must be done the same way in Worcester or Chicago or San Diego. Once the recruitment of mothers, fathers and infants is completed, researchers will have a rich pool of data related to how the external environment may influence pregnancy, how the pregnancy environment may influence child health, and how child health may influence adult health, and other vital questions.

ONLINE:

National Children's Study
www.nationalchildrensstudy.gov



JOB CORPS CAREER DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

For many high school students planning to enter the workforce immediately upon graduation, gaining the skills required to become self-supporting and productive members of society is not always easy. Underprivileged youth may face particular challenges to finding a good job. Recognizing the obstacles and the impact they may have on our community, UMass Medical School has launched two career development initiatives that will both assist young people and shape the school's future workforce.

As a long-time supporter of the Job Corps, a national training program that provides eligible disadvantaged young adults ages 16 to 24 with comprehensive career development and placement services, UMMS has hired several graduates to fill key positions in its administrative, Information Services and Facilities departments. This local resource has become so valuable, that UMMS has formalized a partnership with the Job Corps campuses in Grafton and Devens, Massachusetts.

Primarily a residential program that utilizes a combination of integrative and customized training approaches, Job Corps serves to teach employability skills and social competencies through classroom and practical learning settings. As its partner in this mission, UMMS will provide a venue for the program's paid and unpaid learning internships, which expose students to an actual work environment, and will assess the students' basic skills and provide constructive feedback, helping to shape future Job Corps curriculum and train students for positions specific to UMMS.

"The ultimate goal of this partnership is to hire the graduates who apply for positions at the Medical School," said Phil Kerr, interim associate vice chancellor for Human Resources at UMMS. "Our first-year measure of success will be to have five permanent placements."

In 2009, 25 Worcester-area high school students will participate in *Bright Futures*, a new summer internship program at UMMS that will both familiarize juniors and seniors with a professional environment and educate them on basic work skills, such as punctuality and appropriate attire. Internships will be available in a variety of settings, including administration, the library and facilities, and will run for a minimum of six weeks. "It is my hope that these students will have a positive summer work experience here that may lead to future job opportunities," said Jacqueline Coppedge, diversity outreach coordinator, a new position that bridges the UMMS Human Resources Department and the Diversity and Equal Opportunity Office.

Tyrell Jernigan of Springfield, Massachusetts is a Job Corps participant gaining experience in the UMMS Facilities Department.

Coppedge will oversee current work readiness training programs UMMS is conducting in at-risk communities, which provide coaching on résumé preparation, interview techniques and how to utilize the Internet during a job search. She will also develop other outreach initiatives to cultivate and diversify the UMMS workforce.

"The purpose of diversity outreach is to create and build relationships in the community to provide good jobs across the Medical School spectrum, from entry level to those in research and management," said Kerr. "By reaching out in this way and participating in job fairs at our sister campuses, we can continue to develop a workforce that reflects our community."

ONLINE:
Job Corps
grafton.jobcorps.gov
shriver.jobcorps.gov

UMass Medical School careers
www.umassmed.edu/hr



CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS STEM NETWORK

A collaboration among institutions of higher education, nonprofits, businesses and public schools that promotes K-12 math and science education for students and teachers is certain to enhance current and future workforces. The Central Massachusetts STEM Network is one such collaboration that illuminates the possibilities that exist when science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) are embraced.

Sandra Mayrand, MBA, directs the STEM Network. Inspired by her love of science, Mayrand has helped build formal and informal associations and partnerships that reach far more students and teachers than any one person or entity could alone.

Mayrand's success was recently rewarded when the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education awarded the STEM Network a \$500,000 grant to launch STEM Central, a strategic communication initiative that will increase awareness of STEM careers and the educational pathways required for entry into the 21st century math and science workforce. "Because of the existing partnerships that have grown from the STEM Network, we can move forward quickly with the goals of STEM Central. We're delighted to receive major funding to apply what we've learned about attracting this age group to careers in science," said Mayrand.

STEM Central's plans build upon the innovative collaborations and programs of the Regional Science Resource Center, also under Mayrand's direction at UMMS. Initiatives will engage middle school students in STEM careers by introducing

them to role models and teaching them what the careers entail; help students create parent- and peer-friendly messages about STEM careers and the pathways leading to them; and develop networks of minority, low-income or first-generation college families to foster discussion of STEM career choices.

At last year's annual Massachusetts Middle School Science Fair, which is chaired by Mayrand and attracts more than 350 middle school students annually, the Central Mass STEM Network member organizations held a career fair to highlight the roles that STEM topics play in the business, education and science fields. This year, an information blitz will take place during March. In partnership with Worcester Public Schools, members of the STEM Network, including scientists from the UMMS community, will take their shows on the road by "doing science" in

Worcester schools during "Innovation Month." Members will also become STEM ambassadors in Worcester after-school programs, where they will be interviewed by students; the students will then write profiles of the ambassadors, thus creating an archive of STEM career possibilities. Ultimately, these students will become junior STEM ambassadors themselves by creating STEM career awareness communications to present to their peers and families.

STEM Central will also replicate the highly successful Women in Science Conference that the Regional Science Resource Center co-sponsors with the EcoTarium. The original conference creates unique opportunities for middle school girls to interact directly with successful women who are using science in their careers. This year, five such conferences will be held in partnership with school districts, foundations, businesses, and colleges and universities, including the new Men in STEM Conference for middle school boys in Worcester. By expanding on an already successful model, STEM Central is reaching out to even more students while maximizing resources and partnerships for wide-ranging benefits.

ONLINE:
STEM Initiatives at UMass Medical School
www.massachusetts.edu/umassstem



Central Massachusetts STEM Network Members

Schools and Districts

Acton-Boxborough
Ashburnham-Westminster Regional
Ashland
Bay Path Regional
Blackstone-Millville Regional
Clinton
Douglas
Fitchburg
Leominster
Lunenburg
Mendon-Upton Regional
Nashoba Regional
Northbridge
Quabbin Regional
Shrewsbury
Spencer-East Brookfield Regional
Webster
Westborough
Winchendon
Worcester

Non-profit Organizations

Bi-County Collaborative
Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce
Education Foundation
Broad Meadow Brook Conservation Center
and Wildlife Sanctuary
Catch the Science Bug
Center for Stem Cell Biology and
Regenerative Medicine at UMMS
Central Massachusetts Regional
Employment Board

Central Massachusetts Curriculum Coordinators Network

(Convened and facilitated by the UMMS Regional
Science Resource Center)

EcoTarium
Massachusetts Academy of Mathematics
and Science, WPI
Massachusetts State Science and
Engineering Fair, Inc.
MassMEP
Pride Productions, Inc.
Worcester Regional Science and
Engineering Fair Board

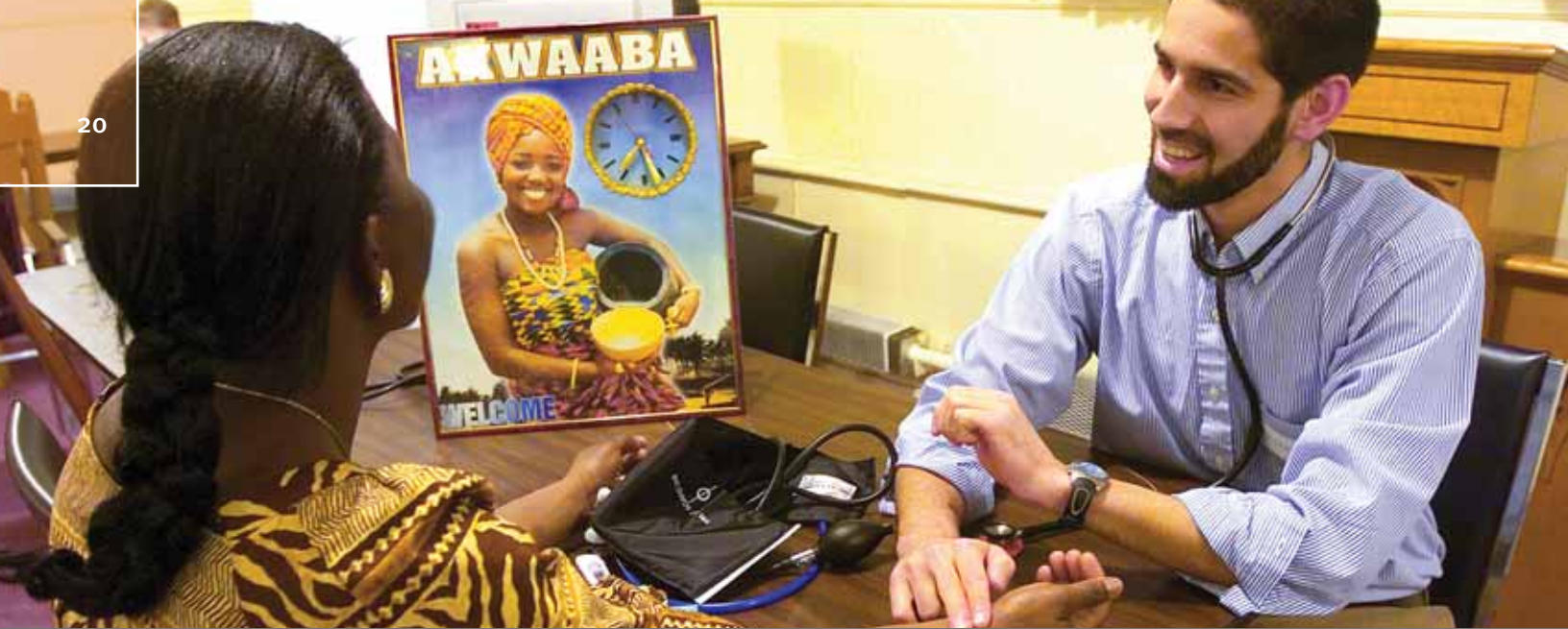
Higher Education

Colleges of Worcester Consortium
Cummings School of Veterinary
Medicine at Tufts University
Fitchburg State College
Mount Wachusett Community College
Quinsigamond Community College
University of Massachusetts
Medical School
Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Worcester State College

Businesses

Abbott Laboratories
AstraZeneca
EMC
Fallon Community Health Plan
Hanover Insurance Group
Intel Corporation
Sovereign Bank

Sandra Mayrand, MBA (far left), was a recipient of the 2008 Manuel Carballo Governor's Award for Excellence in Public Service. The Carballo Award is presented to a select few who exemplify "the highest standards of public service through exceptional accomplishment, superior leadership, creativity and productivity." Above, a result of Mayrand's creativity: From left, Sophie Pearson, Johanna Smith and Emily Humphries, seventh graders from Gibbons Middle School in Westborough, extract DNA from an onion in the labs of the UMMS Regional Science Resource Center.



THE ALBERT SCHWEITZER FELLOWSHIP

Nobel Peace prize-winning humanitarian Albert Schweitzer devoted his life to serving the underserved around the globe; for more than a decade, UMass Medical School students have embodied Dr. Schweitzer's legacy with community service programs supported by the Schweitzer Fellowship, founded in 1949 to reduce disparities in health and health care by developing leaders in service.

Upon completion of their projects, participants become Fellows for Life, joining a network of more than 1,700 Lambaréné and U.S. Schweitzer fellows who are dedicated to maintaining service in their personal and professional lives.

Many UMMS students bring to Worcester their demonstrated commitment to community outreach, with health care-related interests in public service running the gamut from preventive medicine to chronic disease management to health education. Matthew Bartek, School of Medicine (SOM) '11, Abraham Jaffe, SOM '11, Thomas Peteet, SOM '11 and John Stenglein, SOM '09, are the 2008 UMMS Schweitzer Fellows, joining a cohort that has developed and sustained significant community service programs locally and traveled halfway around the world to the

Albert Schweitzer Hospital in Africa.

"The Fellowship has provided a useful framework and support group for undertaking a community service project," noted Jaffe, who with Bartek received Schweitzer funding for the Akwaaba Health Initiative, a community-based effort to address the unmet health needs of Worcester's African-immigrant population. The two co-manage the initiative's free clinic, and with community volunteers, UMMS faculty and the Graduate School of Nursing, are expanding the services offered beyond simple medical visits.

"This model was appealing especially because it is a give and take where volunteers learn from patients just as much as patients learn from volunteers," said Bartek. Open one evening each week, in 2008 the Akwaaba Free Health Clinic provided primary care services to more than 300 patients. UMMS clinical partner UMass Memorial Health Care provides laboratory tests at no charge to the clinic, as well as a trained insurance specialist who helps enroll patients in free or subsidized health insurance programs for which they are eligible; since opening in April 2008, approximately 75 previously uninsured individuals have taken advantage of this assistance.

Following his initial volunteer work at the Center for Healthy Kids in Worcester's Great Brook Valley housing complex, Peteet is continuing the work begun four years ago by two UMMS student predecessors who sought to educate kids about healthy choices. In addition to continuing classes on topics including nutrition, physical exercise and positive body image, as well as tutoring, Peteet is spearheading new projects to increase wellness in children and families in the area. "Through the fellowship this year, I have had the chance to help kids address the challenges they have to staying healthy right where they live," said Peteet, who first encountered the health issues faced by children as a school teacher prior to



attending medical school.

Last summer Stenglein became the School of Medicine's second Lambaréné fellow, one of four third-year medical students nationwide selected annually to spend three months working on clinical rotations at the Albert Schweitzer Hospital in Lambaréné, Gabon. Stenglein prepared for the Lambaréné fellowship by studying French in North Africa through the UMMS Pathway on Serving Multicultural and Underserved Populations so that he would have the fluency required of Lambaréné applicants. "Throughout my medical career I hope to improve the lives of people who are disadvantaged."

Upon completion of their projects, participants become Fellows for Life, joining a network of more than 1,700 Lambaréné and U.S. Schweitzer fellows who are dedicated to maintaining service in their personal and professional lives. "The Fellowship affirms a lifelong commitment to service and keeps one in contact with a large group of doctors and scientists who identify with Schweitzer's 'reverence for life' philosophy and enjoy the intangible rewards of medicine," said Stenglein.

ONLINE:

The Albert Schweitzer Fellowship
www.schweitzerfellowship.org

Abraham Jaffe checks a patient's vital signs at the Akwaaba Health Initiative's free clinic hosted by the International Central Gospel Church in Worcester. Photo courtesy of the Worcester *Telegram & Gazette*. Above, Schweitzer fellows Tom Peteet, Jaffe and Matt Bartek meet on the UMMS campus. And in Lambaréné, Gabon, fellow John Stenglein completes clinical rotations at the Albert Schweitzer Hospital.

"The Fellowship affirms a lifelong commitment to service and keeps one in contact with a large group of doctors and scientists who identify with Schweitzer's 'reverence for life' philosophy and enjoy the intangible rewards of medicine."

-John Stenglein, medical student



UMASS EARLY INTERVENTION AND FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAM

Early intervention helps optimize healthy development of society's youngest and most vulnerable citizens, newborns to three-year-olds. The field was itself in its infancy when the UMass Medical School Department of Pediatrics made an early commitment to area children and families by establishing the UMass Early Intervention and Family Support Program (EI) program in the early 1970s. Today, UMass EI remains at the leading edge of the field's evolution, helping children and their families lessen or prevent the effects of developmental delays.

EI services are an entitlement by law for all children up to age three who have or are at risk for developmental problems as a result of diagnosed conditions, biological risk factors and environmental risk factors; programs in Massachusetts must be licensed by the Department of Public Health. One of the 64 licensed programs statewide, UMass EI was the first, and is still the largest, early intervention program for Worcester and surrounding towns, serving 1,500 children annually. "Our goal is to be community-based," explained EI Director Jimmilee Prouty. "We engage in extensive outreach and reciprocity with other providers in the area, including dozens of day care centers where problems may first be recognized."

Including physical and occupational therapists, speech pathologists, registered nurses, early childhood special educators, counselors and social workers, the EI team employs a strength-based approach that addresses the whole child, not just the

"Our goal is to be community-based. We engage in extensive outreach and reciprocity with other providers in the area, including dozens of day care centers where problems may first be recognized."

-Jimmilee Prouty, EI director

diagnosis. Upon referral, a child is assessed for fine and gross motor development; speech and language development; cognition; social and emotional function; and self-care abilities. A customized program is then created to address identified needs with developmental services including physical, occupational and speech therapy; counseling and case management; and individual and group therapies provided in a child's home as well as at the EI Center in Shrewsbury.

Services are also provided in day care centers upon request.

Instructing and working with parents is an integral component of early intervention. "One of the first things we do is review family routines so we can identify with the members the areas that challenge the child and family and set up a plan that will help them deal with difficult times and

situations," said Prouty. Play and parenting groups are offered at the Early Intervention Center in Shrewsbury, and staff members also provide services in a variety of settings including homeless shelters and substance-abuse treatment facilities where children reside with recovering parents.

The full backing of UMass Medical School supports UMass EI's comprehensive approach to serving children with



developmental problems. “We have access to some of the best pediatric care in the state,” said Prouty. In turn, EI provides education to medical students: Prouty participates as a facilitator in the UMMS Physician, Patient and Society course, and numerous training opportunities are available to students and residents at the EI Center in Shrewsbury.

The program is also an incubator for professional development. Noting that staff members must demonstrate competency in 84 areas for state certification in early intervention, Prouty said, “They come to us with credentials in their own field. Subsequently they develop broad-based EI expertise comprising more than the scope of their specialized training.”

Whatever their discipline, all EI clinicians are committed to helping entire families and communities as well as individual children. “Dedicated staff motivate

families as well as kids to do the best they can,” Prouty concluded. “More than 50 percent of our kids don’t require special education services after they leave us.”

ONLINE:
[UMass Early Intervention
 www.worcesterresources.org](http://www.worcesterresources.org)

Kids and their moms engage in circle time at the UMass Early Intervention program in Shrewsbury. Developmental therapists and certified early intervention specialists lead the children in song and play, which helps them develop fine motor, speech and language, and social skills. Above, Brendan Shea checks out a toy with mom, Lena, and at right, Stephen Owusu Manu Jr. captivates as he crawls.

Today, UMass Early Intervention remains at the leading edge of the field’s evolution, helping children and their families lessen or prevent the effects of developmental delays.



AFRICAN COMMUNITY EDUCATION

A good education is the foundation for success for any individual in America. For those who are refugees escaping the consistent trauma of life in areas of conflict around the globe, the bright future that an education promises is particularly precious. In Worcester, young members of the growing African immigrant community have found the potential for a productive life through African Community Education (ACE), a non-profit organization co-founded by UMass Medical School student Olga Valdman. With Catholic Charities refugee resettlement case worker Kaska Yawe, a Liberian immigrant who is now an American citizen, Valdman has created an educational enrichment program rooted in the community to ensure its sustainability.

ACE is a by-product of Valdman's first-year Community Health Clerkship, an integral, public-service oriented component of the UMMS undergraduate medical curriculum. While the initial objective of her clerkship was to assist one or two African families with their health needs, Valdman's focus soon shifted to educational needs. She learned that many children who have lived through distress and displacement in impoverished and war-torn countries like Liberia, Sudan, Somalia and Burundi find themselves floundering academically once they arrive in Worcester because they are placed in grades according to their age, rather than their English-speaking abilities or previous schooling.

"When they first arrive, these kids want to learn, but being so behind in school is very discouraging," explained Valdman. "Education is integrally linked to health

status—without proper support, some students drop out of high school and some engage in risky behaviors—teen pregnancy, for example, is on the rise in this vulnerable population."

Run entirely by volunteers from the African community and local colleges and universities, including UMMS, ACE is centered on a Saturday program offering math and English classes and homework help, as well as theater and dance classes. "The program has evolved from tutoring in single subjects to a comprehensive, integrated educational program," Valdman said. The Saturday program has grown from its first class of 25 to currently serve 70 children, with a growing waiting list. In the fall of 2008, the program celebrated its first participant to enter college. More are expected to follow thanks to improved school performance and MCAS scores.

Olga Valdman with students Thomas Jackson (far left) and Clarence Zeh (right) and ACE volunteer Francis Jeppoe. With help from ACE, Jackson and Zeh will be graduating from high school in 2009.

Many of ACE's young beneficiaries aspire to be just like Valdman and her fellow UMass Medical School volunteers. "More than anything, I would like to be a medical doctor," wrote 15-year-old program participant Gertura Gbarbo. Thanks to the volunteers of ACE, her chances for making that dream come true are much better.

ONLINE:
African Community Education
www.acechildren.com



WORCESTER NURSING PIPELINE CONSORTIUM

Nursing remains such a competitive career opportunity that even ninth graders are charting the curricular course of their high school years in preparation for higher education and tomorrow's job market. Several 14-year-olds and their parents attended the Worcester Nursing Pipeline Consortium's annual Nursing Schools Expo in November, along with nearly 90 other area high school students and their families, a record turnout. Students were advised to take classes that emphasize the life sciences and find part-time jobs at health care facilities to ensure they'll stand out as college applicants.

The Expo is supported by UMass Medical School's Graduate School of Nursing (GSN) as a service to the community and to local undergraduate schools of nursing, whose representatives filled a large conference room at the UMMS campus, eager to greet potential matriculants from 81 high schools. The Consortium was established to increase enrollment, retention, graduation and academic advancement of qualified nursing students and nurses committed to improving health care in Worcester and Central Massachusetts.

"Who can better represent the profession than the schools that prepare nurses at all levels of education?" asked event coordinator Jill Terrien, PhD, APN, BC, assistant professor and director of Nurse Practitioner Specialties at the GSN.

After the exhibit portion of the Expo, students learn from practicing nurses and faculty about the fields of pediatrics,

emergency care, geriatrics, home care and public health, military and corrections, and newborn intensive care. "The types of careers these students can look forward to are endless," said Expo exhibitor Christine Devine, assistant professor of nursing at Fitchburg State College and a graduate of the GSN.

"The Expo encourages students to ask questions about the differences between the nursing school programs: when do they first get exposed to clinical practice, is simulation technology available, how is the transition into the workforce handled?" added Devine.

She noted that parents ask the nurses about their own career paths and how they perceive the job market will be for their children. "The Expo is successful because it brings the real nursing world to life for students and parents." In evaluations of the Expo, that theme emerges over and over. One student's comment is

Rachel Daponte of Fiskdale, Massachusetts and her parents speak with a nursing school representative at the 2008 Expo.

representative: "I never knew all of this. Thank you very much."

ONLINE:
 Worcester Nursing Pipeline Consortium
 Expo – November 2, 2009
www.umassmed.edu/gsn/service

Vitae: Class Notes



The School of Medicine Reunion on November 8, 2008, brought alumni from the classes of '78, '83, '88, '93, '98 and '03 back to campus. Above are members of the class of 1983, from left: Gerard Cox, MD; Karen Harvey-Wilkes, MD; Mark Robbins, MD; Paul Keough, MD; William Corbett, MD; Paul Conlin, MD; Michael Lemanski, MD.

1981

Mary R. Hawthorne, MD, associate professor of medicine at UMass Medical School, and **David B. DeGrand, MD '90, PhD**, instructor in medicine, recently performed in "Doctors in Concert" at Mechanics Hall in Worcester. The concert featured eight physicians and researchers and benefited local charities. Dr. Hawthorne, a primary care physician at UMass Memorial Medical Center, is a member of the choir at Immaculate Conception Church in Worcester and a cantor at Holy Spirit Parish in Wells, Maine. She periodically performs concerts with her husband, David Pihi, a professional classical pianist. Dr. DeGrand is an internist in the UMass Memorial Community Physicians Group. He also studied at the Berklee College of Music.

1983

Jane A. Lochrie, MD, associate professor of medicine, was honored as a 2008 Health Care Hero by the *Worcester Business Journal* for her professionalism, mentoring and compassionate patient care.

1986

John F. Mulqueen, MD, is co-founder and current president of Forward in Health, a nonprofit working to bring health care to Haiti.

1990

Craig N. van Roekens, MD, MPH, is chief medical officer for Manhattan's Physician Group, the borough's largest multispecialty medical group providing comprehensive and coordinated health care at eight locations.

1991

Brian P. Sutton, MD, was elected president of the medical staff at Noble Hospital in Westfield, Massachusetts for 2009-2010.

1992

Laura K. Sherry Miller, MD, and her husband, Morgan, have produced a children's DVD that teaches street safety to preschoolers. As a mother of two Manhattan-born toddlers, Dr. Miller saw a pressing need for a DVD to help children navigate their urban environment. The DVD is called "Metrobaby Manhattan." A video clip can be viewed at www.metrobabymanhattan.com. The Millers live in Lakeway,

Members of the class of 1993 reunited on November 8, including, from left: Catherine Jones, MD; Sandra Musial, MD; Heather Chapman, MD; Caroline Alper, MD.





Members of the School of Medicine class of 1977 gathered at Empire Garden in Boston on November 8, 2008; from left: Gordon Saperia, MD; David Aronow, MD; Mary Tse, MD; Karoline Kimball Ladd, MD; Lena Dohlman, MD.

Texas with their two children, Austin and Grace, and Dr. Miller currently works as an internist at the Austin VA. She would love to hear from classmates at info@metrobabymanhattan.com.

Carmen G. Strickland, MD, has joined the Department of Family and Community Medicine at Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, as an assistant professor.

1993

Daniel J. McCullough III, MD, and his wife, Kimberly, welcomed son, Andrew Charles, on November 23, 2008. Andrew joins his big brother, Alexander, 4, who is anxiously awaiting the day he can teach his little brother how to ski! Dr. McCullough was also recently named chief of the Department of Family Medicine at Beverly Hospital and medical director of the CAB Health & Recovery detox unit at Boston Medical Center.

1999

Timothy E. Gibson, MD, authored an article in the December 2008 issue of *Bay State Parent*. "The ER: A Place to Soothe Scared Children" informs parents about the changes in medicine that help ease children's fears when they have to go to the hospital. Dr. Gibson, an assistant professor of pediatrics at UMMS, describes the role child life specialists play, how hospitalists care for children and new medicines that lessen pain.

2000

Barry M. Hugo, MD, recently joined the Children's Medical Center of UMass Memorial Medical Center and the PediTeam at Milford Regional Medical Center as a hospitalist.

2002

Jordan Eisenstock, MD, joined the UMass Memorial Medical Group and the Department of Neurology at UMass Memorial Medical Center. He is an assistant professor of neurology and psychiatry at UMMS. His clinical interests include dementia, headaches, movement disorders, sleep medicine, stroke and traumatic brain injuries.

Elisa A. (Freeman) Mulcahy, MD, is practicing internal medicine at Beth Israel Deaconess HealthCare in Brockton. She and her husband, Timothy, were married in 2005 and live in Raynham.

2003

Lora Schwartz Council, MD, joined the staff at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center. She is a family practitioner at Hudson Family Health. Dr. Council was named Resident of the Year for 2007 by the New Hampshire Academy of Family Physicians.

Lloyd D. Fisher, MD, and **Leah E. Doret, MD**, work for the Fallon Clinic, he as a pediatrician, and she in family medicine. Both are instructors at UMMS. They welcomed a daughter, Caroline Elizabeth Fisher, on May 1, 2008. "She is a joy every day, and we are enjoying watching her gain each new skill."

2004

Colby Hunter Previte, MD, and **Gregory Previte, MD**, completed their residencies in OB/GYN and anesthesia, respectively, and have both joined the faculty of the University of Rochester. Colby is also taking classes toward a master's degree in education and working on the OB/GYN residency curriculum. Their son, Carter, just turned 2 and is a "dynamo of energy!"

Christy J. Szafranski, MD, and James Phillips welcomed a daughter, Emmalynn Mary, on April 14, 2007. Dr. Szafranski is a practicing pediatrician in St. Petersburg, Florida.

2005

Michael N. Cocchi, MD, and Katie M. Crisostomo were married on August 23, 2008. Dr. Cocchi completed his residency at the Harvard Affiliated Emergency Medicine Residency at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston, where he is currently a fellow in critical care.

Vitae: Class Notes

Teli Leung, MD, joined the Benedict Building Primary Care Clinic at UMass Memorial Medical Center. Her clinical interests include hospital medicine, preventive medicine and women's health.

Joseph C. Tennyson, MD, joined the UMass Memorial Medical Group and the Department of Emergency Medicine at UMass Memorial Medical Center.

Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

2005

Seoung Oh, PhD, moved to the Seattle area and has joined the Allen Institute for Brain Science as a postdoctoral fellow.

Graduate School of Nursing

1989

The *Worcester Business Journal* recently honored its 2008 Health Care Heroes. Among them was **Jay Cyr, MS, MBA**, instructor in medicine at UMMS, who was recognized with UMass Memorial Medical Center colleagues for contributions to the UMass Memorial expedited treatment of "STEMI" (ST segment elevation myocardial infarction), made possible through coordinated communication and the use of technology.

Jodi L. Lane, MS, RN, CS, CCTC, represented UMass Memorial Medical Center at the Fourth National Learning Congress on Organ Donation and Transplantation in Nashville in October. UMass Memorial was a Medal of Honor recipient.

In Memoriam

Jana Hurlbut-Miller, MD '01, of Salt Lake City, passed away on October 13, 2008. She leaves her husband, **Peter R. Hurlbut-Miller, MD '01**.

Alumni of the School of Medicine, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and Graduate School of Nursing may send their latest news to alumni@umassmed.edu

CALENDAR

**University of Massachusetts
Florida Gathering
UMass Day at Spring Training**
Boston Red Sox vs.
Baltimore Orioles
City of Palms Park,
Fort Myers, Florida
Sunday, March 15, 2009

One Day UMass
Naples, Florida
Monday, March 16, 2009
and
Palm Beach, Florida
Wednesday, March 18, 2009

Match Day
UMass Medical School Campus
Thursday, March 19, 2009

**Graduate School of Nursing
Seventh Annual Excellence in
Nursing Conference**
UMass Medical School Campus
Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Commencement
Sunday, June 7, 2009

**School of Medicine
Alumni Celebration
for Underrepresented Groups**
UMass Medical School Campus
Sunday, June 28, 2009

School of Medicine Alumni Reunion
Celebrating the classes of 1974,
1979, 1984, 1989, 1994, 1999, 2004
UMass Medical School Campus
Saturday, October 17, 2009

For more information about these events, contact the Office of Alumni Relations at alumni@umassmed.edu or 508-856-1593.

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The community is for alumni of the School of Medicine, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, Graduate School of Nursing and Graduate Medical Education.

It's easy:

Go to www.NetworkUMass.com/Medical

In the blue registration box, log in with your user ID and password or to register, click "**Register Now.**"

Need your security number for registration?

E-mail alumni@umassmed.edu or call 508-856-1593.

"It's a great idea—a useful way to keep in touch with all my friends and colleagues at UMass."

—Robert J. Hyde, MD '06



2008 Facts & Figures

FY '08 Funding and Revenue

State Appropriation	\$49.7 million
State Contracts*	\$37.6 million
Public Service	\$325.8 million
Research (sponsored activity)	\$178.7 million
Sales and Services**	\$107.8 million
Other Revenue	\$54.2 million
Total	\$753.8 million

*Provide mental health and pediatric services for those who cannot afford private care.

**Examples include Continuing Education, Massachusetts Biologic Laboratories and New England Newborn Screening Program.

Total Research Funding – Fiscal Year Ending:

June 30, 2004	\$167,200,007
June 30, 2005	\$174,181,453
June 30, 2006	\$175,085,967
June 30, 2007	\$174,505,488
June 30, 2008	\$193,645,273

Technology Management

For Fiscal Year:	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Invention Disclosures	112	66	74	79	60
U.S. Patent Applications	151	93	66	58	58
Licensing Agreements	9	28	32	67	19
Sponsored Research Agreements	\$3,019	\$993	\$1,238	\$3,097	\$2,595
Licensing Revenue (\$ in thousands)	\$26,212	\$27,694	\$25,545	\$40,684	\$36,484

Education

<i>Number of Faculty (including voluntary)</i>	2,683
Basic science full- and part-time faculty	306
Clinical full- and part-time faculty	2,377
<i>School of Medicine</i>	
MD students	419
MD/PhD students	26
Alumni	2,935

Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

PhD students	346
MD/PhD students	22
Biomedical Engineering & Medical Physics students (joint program with WPI)	3
Clinical & Population Health Research students	17
Master of Science in Clinical Investigation students	6
Alumni	384

Graduate School of Nursing

MS students	35
Graduate Entry Pathway students	34
PhD students	23
Doctor of Nursing Practice students	4
Alumni	763

<i>Continuing Medical Education Certificates</i>	28,570
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Where Our Students and Residents Learn

UMass Memorial Health Care

UMass Memorial Medical Center
(Hahnemann, Memorial and University campuses)

UMass Memorial—Clinton Hospital

UMass Memorial—HealthAlliance
Hospitals (Fitchburg and Leominster campuses)

UMass Memorial—Marlborough Hospital

UMass Memorial—Wing Memorial Hospital
and Medical Centers

Barre Family Health Center

Community Healthlink

Hahnemann Family Health Center

South County Pediatrics

Tri-River Family Health Center

Berkshire Medical Center

Caritas St. Elizabeth's Medical Center

Milford Regional Medical Center

Saint Vincent Hospital

Day Kimball Hospital

Harrington Memorial Hospital

Heywood Hospital

Holyoke Hospital

Hubbard Regional Hospital

Noble Hospital

Westborough State Hospital

Worcester State Hospital

Community Health Connections, Inc.

Fitchburg Family Health Center

Greater Gardner Community Health Center

Leominster Community Health Center

Fallon Clinic

Family Health Center of Worcester

Great Brook Valley Health Center

Greater Lawrence Family Health Center

Holyoke Health Center

Lahey Clinic

Metrowest Medical Center

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the commonwealth**

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Vitage: The Last Word



By Judy Savageau, MPH

Associate Professor of Family Medicine & Community Health

Savageau is primarily involved in a number of teaching and health services research activities; an epidemiologist and biostatistician, she has been at UMass Medical School since 1990. Savageau embodies the mission of service so many UMMS employees undertake in response to community need.

"Service is the rent we pay for being. It is the very purpose of life, and not something you do in your spare time."

-Marian Wright Edelman

This quote from the founder of the Children's Defense Fund has guided me in the community service work that I have loved doing for so many years. My commitment to community service began in elementary school when I helped my paternal grandmother stitch together the hand-knitted squares that she created in a rainbow of colors to make afghans and blankets for local nursing home residents. Forty years later, my grandmother's keepsake blanket continues to inspire me to devote whatever time, talents and treasures I have to the service of others.

My father, a World War II veteran, worked tirelessly for veterans of foreign wars to keep alive the spirit of giving in the name of freedom. The flag that draped his casket invokes within me daily not only a desire to help whenever and wherever I can, but a deep-seated need to do so. Without the two role models of my father and his mother, my grandmother, I'm not

sure how I would have been inspired to become a volunteer. I can only hope I would have traveled the same path, following the examples of the many wonderful people who make a difference in the lives of others.

From simple projects such as helping a blind friend wrap and mail her holiday gifts to larger annual projects each year coordinating the fund-raising, filling and delivery of more than 200 gift baskets for mothers at local shelters, my goal is to offer service where it is most needed.

You can also find me every Thursday evening in downtown Worcester at one of the county's largest food pantries, which provides groceries to 650–700 families each month, and where I bag and shelve food or greet families who are doing their best to fight hunger in their own homes. What I have learned is that the opportunities to serve are endless and whatever you're good at, there's a place your talents can be used.

I take great pride in knowing that my service has inspired my two young adult children to make an equally impressive commitment to community. There need not be any boundaries between ourselves and our brothers and sisters. My son committed himself to a life of service at an early age. As a boy scout, he worked on many local projects to help those in need in our community. During college, he joined his fraternity brothers in many projects such as painting a local elementary school in North Philadelphia.

My daughter will soon be leaving for Costa Rica to begin a six-month commitment to work as a volunteer in a local medical clinic.

Opportunities to help others are without borders or boundaries. Whether one reads or shares books with a local school, or picks up groceries once a month for a food pantry, or makes a commitment to serve on the board of a favorite charity, the rewards of community service come back to each of us many times over and in so many ways.

In a growing time of need in our community and in our nation, I hope people will use their own talents and life experiences to help wherever they can. There is always room in our daily lives and in our hearts if we make this commitment.

There are no milestones or benchmarks against which we should be evaluating the service we do to help others. As Marian Wright Edelman also said, "You're not obligated to win. You're obligated to keep trying to do the best you can every day." 🍌

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