Investiture honors faculty and philanthropy

The exemplary achievements of faculty and the generosity of the benefactors who support their efforts were celebrated at the 25th annual Investiture ceremony, held June 4 at the Hoagland-Pincus Conference Center on the Shrewsbury Campus. The ceremony featured the naming of a new recipient to an existing endowment and two professors to newly established chairs; it also recognized two new professorships for which recipients have yet to be selected.

Azra Raza, MD, professor of medicine, was invested as the Gladys Smith Martin Chair in Oncology in recognition of her achievement in the research of myelodysplastic syndromes, a collection of disorders in which the bone marrow does not produce enough blood cells to maintain healthy function.

Endowed by the H. Arthur Smith Charitable Foundation, the Chair was established in memory of H. Arthur Smith’s sister.

In recognition of his compassionate care for Ali Pierce, who died of liver cancer in 1996, Professor of Pediatrics Peter E. Newburger, MD, was named the Ali and John Pierce Chair in Pediatric Hematology/Oncology. Honoring the memory of Ali and her father, John Pierce, who tragically passed away less than a year after her death while raising funds for research, the Chair was endowed with the support of Ali’s mother Anna Ling Pierce and Framingham philanthropists Jack and Shelley Raza.

Linda F. Weinreb, MD, professor of family medicine & community health, was invested as the first Joy McGann Professor for Women in Medicine. The three-year endowment was made possible with a gift from the Joy McGann Foundation and honors a female faculty member who has demonstrated leadership in medical education, research, patient care and community service.

Also announced were two newly established endowments. The Gretchen Stone Cook Chair in Biomedical Sciences was endowed upon Mrs. Cook’s death in 2004 and is intended to advance research in the broadest sense. Leo and Teresa LaChance of Gardner endowed the Leo P. and Teresa M. LaChance Chair in Mental Retardation and Behavioral Health. Pending approval by the University Board of Trustees, the chair will support research into the causes and treatment of mental retardation.

Lauding the new recipients, Chancellor and Dean Aaron Lazare said, “Thanks to the generosity of our benefactors, our endowed positions — now totaling 28 — represent some of the finest scholars, scientists, teachers and researchers in the world.”

161 degrees awarded at Commencement exercises

With a theme of providing all patients with the most compassionate of care woven throughout, the University of Massachusetts Medical School celebrated its 32nd Commencement exercises on June 5. Throughout, the UMMS community followed her death.

In a fitting culmination to the 25th anniversary year of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, the ceremony began with remarks from Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research founding member Robert Weinberg, PhD, who was the first to discover a cancer-causing gene in humans. Dr. Weinberg touted “the intellectual back and forth pingpong that lies at the heart of the intellectual life and vibrancy” of the UMMS community. He also offered a historical perspective on the war on cancer and the importance of creating an environment in which serendipitous scientific discoveries can occur.

Chancellor and Dean Aaron Lazare presented two honorary degrees at the ceremony. The first was to Sreed Arshad Hasan Ravi, MD, founder and director of the Siddhi Institute of Urology and Transplantation, the largest public-sector health organization in Pakistan offering dialysis and organ transplantation to underserved populations at no cost. The second was given posthumously to Kenneth R. Schwartz, a Boston health care attorney who died of lung cancer at the age of 40. Shortly before his death in 1995, Mr. Schwartz established the Kenneth R. Schwartz Center, dedicated to strengthening the relationship between patients and caregivers in the health care system.

Mr. Schwartz’s widow, Ellen Cohen, accepted her husband’s honorary degree at the ceremony and addressed the graduates: “When Ken was diagnosed with lung cancer, we went from bad news to worse news very quickly. But, when surgery wasn’t possible and the chemotherapies failed and there was nothing left, the one thing that we had — which was so healing for Ken — was his relationship with his caregivers. So, you have an awesome power to heal patients and their families.”

Finally, in a moving speech that described his emotions during the treatment of his daughter Jacqueline for breast cancer, Dr. Lazare read passages from a thank-you letter he wrote to the UMMS community following her death. “Remember that you can’t hurt someone by putting them on the back or offering a prayer or sending them a note,” he told the graduates. “Just as one feels enveloped by the irreversible reality of permanent loss, such acts of kindness result in a feeling of being connected and cared for by a larger community.”

Additional Commencement highlights included parting words from class speakers Jean A. Marcellin Jr. (School of Medicine); Melissa A. Calmann (Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences); and Yvonne Michael (Graduate School of Nursing).
Women faculty honored

This spring, UMMS celebrated its distinguished female faculty at the fifth annual Women’s Faculty Awards Luncheon, co-sponsored by the Women’s Faculty Committee (WFC), the Office of Faculty Administration and the Equal Opportunity Office. Established by the WFC, the awards honor the outstanding achievements of women faculty in education, community service, scientific achievement and patient care.

In her opening remarks, Vice Chancellor for Faculty Administration and Interim Provost Cheryl R. Scheidt, PhD, commented, “The annual awards ceremony is a great opportunity to learn the stories you don’t hear about wonderful women making spectacular contributions. And, the WFC is fortunate to have the task of identifying them.”

Professor and Chair of Pediatrics Marianne E. Felice, PhD, introduced guest speaker Ellen More, PhD, visiting professor of psychiatry. In her presentation titled, “The Search for Balance,” Dr. More discussed changing images of women in medicine, saying, “Today I’m here not only to celebrate and restore the history of women in medicine, but also to issue a tough-love reminder that we’re not there yet. Today’s honorees will help take us from a good place to a better one.”

Following More’s speech, WFC co-chair Julie Januszewski, PhD, associate professor of physiology, announced the 2005 winners:

• Mary E. Costanza, MD, professor of medicine, received the Outstanding Community Service Award for her leadership efforts, recognized nationally as well as locally, in the fight against breast cancer.
• Marianne M. Mamo, MD, clinical associate professor of pediatrics, received the Sarah Stone Excellence in Education Award. Dr. Mamo has previously received numerous Outstanding Educator Awards from UMMS residents.
• Celia A. Schiffer, PhD, associate professor of biochemistry & molecular pharmacology, received the Women in Science and Health Achievements Award. Her nomination noted, “Dr. Schiffer is dedicated to the success of women faculty — her door is always open.”
• Randy F. Worthheimer, MD, vice chair and associate professor of family medicine & community health, received the Excellence in Clinical Service Award for her emphasis on women’s health care and successes in serving the underserved.

Closing remarks were made by Linda F. Weinreb, MD, who was install ed as the Joy McCann Professor for Women in Medicine in June. The three-year professorship recognizes a female physician who has demonstrated ed leadership in medicine and who has provided mentorship of trainees and colleagues. Noting that women leaders in medicine are still few, Dr. Weinreb said, “My hope is to work together with women to move more of us into leadership positions.”

Leaders in their fields

UMMS faculty members — notably some of the Medical School’s top women educators, physicians and scientists — have been tapped to head several of the most respected professional medical organizations in the country. Following are three examples of such faculty members who have been elected into leadership roles in their areas of expertise:

Dr. DeMarco began her term as president this month.

F. Alexander Blount, EdS, clinical professor of family medicine & community health, was elected chair of the Collaborative Family Healthcare Association at its April board meeting. Founded in 1993, the organization comprises a “diverse group of physicians, nurses, psychologists, social workers, family therapists and other health care workers who study, implement and advocate for the collaborative family health care paradigm.”

The fellows of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (FANP) have selected GSN Instructor Alice Bommer, MS, APN, BC, as a 2005 fellow. The purpose of the FANP program is to recognize nurse practitioners who have made outstanding contributions to health care through clinical practice, research, education or health policy.

Family Medicine & Community Health faculty members Michael Burdulis, MD, instructor, Dennis M. Dillmit, MD, assistant professor, and Karen Jacobson, MD, assistant professor, received the Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Massachusetts HMO Blue Quality Award. The award is given to physicians who achieved the highest quality rankings of all physicians on selected measures for two consecutive years.

Lois B. Green, MPH, instructor in family medicine & community health, and Shirley S. Siff, EdD, affiliates in psychiatry, were both recipients of a 2005 Katherine F. Erskine Award. Green for achievement in Community/Social Services & Government and Dr. Siff for excellence in Medicine and Science. Initiated by the YWCA in 1993 in memory of Katharine Forbes Erskine, its former president, the Erskine Awards recognize local women in four categories of accomplishment.

Robert E. Layne, MD, Worcester Pipeline Collaborative program coordinator, was recently named the Worcester Public School’s Community Service Award winner in recognition of his “significant contributions to the children, families and staff” of the city’s school system.

Martin G. Mathus, PhD, professor of biochemistry & molecular pharmacology, was elected a fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology. With a mission to recognize scientific excellence and foster knowledge and understanding in the microbiological sciences, the Academy is the honorific leadership group within the American Society for Microbiology, the world’s oldest life science organization.

For his contributions to assessing and improving ways to prevent further strokes in patients who have already suffered from one or more, Majid Moonis, MD, associate professor of neurology, was presented with the 2005 Community Conciseness Award by the Metro Worcester Branch of the American Stroke Association.

H. Brownell Wheeler, MD, the Harry M. Haidale Professor of Surgery Emeritus, was recently awarded the 2005 Lifetime Achievement Award by the Massachusetts Medical Society. Presented by the statewide organization to an individual who has made a lasting contribution to the practice of medicine, the award specifically recognized Dr. Wheeler as a “compassionate and dedicated physician who inspires all with his many fine qualities: wisdom, grace, wit, and personal and professional integrity.”

In her opening remarks, Vice Chancellor for Faculty Administration and Interim Provost Cheryl R. Scheidt, PhD, commented, “The annual awards ceremony is a great opportunity to learn the stories you don’t hear about wonderful women making spectacular contributions.”

Women’s Faculty Award recipients and ceremony participants from left to right: Mariann Manno, MD, Randy Worthheimer, MD, Ellen More, PhD, Celia Schiffer, PhD, and Linda Weinreb, MD

The annual awards ceremony is a great opportunity to learn the stories you don’t hear about wonderful women making spectacular contributions.
Glimpses of the 32nd Annual UMMS

commencement exercises

June 5, 2005

1. Commencement participants: Syed Adibul Hasan Rizvi, MD; Chancellor and Dean Aaron Lazare, MD; Ellen Cohen; University of Massachusetts President Jack Wilson, PhD; Graduate School of Nursing Dean Doreen Harper, PhD; Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences Dean Anthony Carruthers, PhD; and UMass Memorial President and CEO John O’Brien

2. School of Medicine Class Speaker Jean Marcelin Jr., (right) chats in Washburn Hall with fellow graduate John Verderese.

3. GSN graduate Catherine Powers gives her tam a final adjustment before entering Mechanics Hall.

4. GSBS graduates (from left to right) Melissa Farrow, Christopher Lengner, Corey Smith, Deborah Brancho and Madathia Sarkissian

5. With babe in arms, Alan Morrison receives both his doctorate of medicine and philosophy.

6. UMass President Wilson congratulates honorary degree recipient Dr. Rizvi.

7. Ellen Cohen, who accepted an honorary degree for her late husband Kenneth Schwartz, applauds second-year medical students Kelly Gillick and Phong Dargon; both discussed their experience attending the Kenneth B. Schwartz Center’s Compassionate Caregiver of the Year Award Ceremony, which honored UMass Memorial oncology nurse Helen Mullen.

8. With Gillick in the background, Dargon notes his evolution as a compassionate caregiver.
investiture ceremony

1. Azra Raza, MD, newly invested as the Gladys Smith Martin Chair in Oncology

2. Chancellor and Dean Aaron Lazare chats with Peter Newburger, MD, who was endowed as the Ali and John Pierce Chair in Pediatric Hematology/Oncology during the Investiture Ceremony.

3. Professor and Chair of Pediatrics Marianne Felice, MD, with UMass Memorial oncology nurse Helen Mullen, the 2004 recipient of the Kenneth B. Schwartz Center’s Compassionate Caregiver of the Year Award.

4. Formerly endowed faculty line up to participate in the Investiture Ceremony. Shown are Thoru Pederson, PhD, the Vitoit Arnett Professor of Cell Biology; Anthony Rothschild, MD, the Irving S. and Betty Brudnick Chair of Psychiatry; Gary Stein, PhD, the Gerald L. Haidak, MD, and Zelda S. Haidak Professor of Cell Biology; and Mario Stevenson, PhD, the David J. Freielfander Professor of AIDS Research.

5. Anna Ling Pierce, J.T. Pierce, Judi Wilson, UMass President Jack Wilson, PhD, Lisa Ling and Mike Pierce.

6. Professor of Orthopedics & Physical Rehabilitation Arthur Pappas, MD, with David Ayers, the Arthur M. Pappas, MD, Chair in Orthopedics.


8. Linda F. Weinreb, MD, professor of family medicine & community health, is formally invested as the first incumbent of the Joy McCann Professorship for Women in Medicine by Dr. Lazare.
James P. McNamara, PhD, an experienced leader in biomedical technology development and commercialization, recently joined UMMMS as the new executive director of the Office of Technology Management (OTM). In this role, Dr. McNamara will lead the Medical School’s team that works to commercialize the many innovations produced by UMMMS faculty and staff, as well as secured funded collaborations that support the work of the Medical School’s research enterprise. McNamara comes to UMMMS from his position as senior director of business development for the Biosciences Division at SRI International, the prestigious California-based research and technology development organization that was founded in 1946 as the Stanford Research Institute. “We are very pleased to have attracted a scientist and technology-management leader of Jim’s caliber and experience to our institution,” said Deputy Chancellor for Finance and Administration Richard J. Stanton. “All of us involved in the search process feel that Jim will excel in the critical role of leader of OTM.” McNamara is a native of Fitchburg, Massachusetts. He earned a bachelor’s degree in chemistry from the University of Connecticut. He earned a doctorate in medicinal chemistry at Stanford University in 1987. McNamara then pursued a postdoctoral fellowship in the biogeneric chemistry program at SRI. Following the fellowship, he stayed there, working first as a bench scientist, then as a team leader and eventually rising to direct the business development and intellectual property functions for SRI’s Pharmaceutical Drug Discovery Division. In his most recent post, McNamara was responsible for overall business development, licensing and intellectual property management for a division with annual revenue of $50 million. “I’m happy to come home to Massachusetts at a time when so much world-class research is happening right here at the Medical School,” McNamara said. “I look forward to working with the faculty, and through those efforts, fostering the biotech industry we see growing in the region.”

Vitals
Renate White
Administrative Coordinator
UMass Correctional Health, Commonwealth Medicine
Year started: 2001.
Hometown: Taunton

Professionally Speaking
Renate White has been recognized as the July Employee of Distinction for her outstanding support of the health services unit for Bay State Correctional Facility and MCI-North, one of the highest volume prisons served by UMass Correctional Health. As the administrative coordinator in a unit that provides health care for more than 1,700 inmates, Rae — as she is known to coworkers and friends — is responsible for ensuring that the office runs smoothly, no matter the day-to-day circumstances. In nominating Rae, Health Services Administrator Donna Jurdak wrote, “Rae is the point person for everyone. I don’t worry about this office. I know Rae will take care of everything.” According to Jurdak, in addition to Rae’s daily responsibilities, including compiling daily incident reports for drafting the morning report and organizing sick call lines for scheduled clinics, she is always prepared to identify new ways to help. For example, Rae initiated a daily phone call to outpatient nursing staff to make sure that their needs are being met and their concerns addressed. Rae also strives to continually improve the efficiency of her work environment. She has trained the medical records clerks to perform record reviews, resulting in improved efficiency. Finally, Rae has embraced the chance to reach out to new UMass Correctional Health staff prior to their first day of work, to reassure them of the support they will receive in their new environment. “Starting at a new place can be kind of confusing,” she says. “I developed a ‘welcome aboard’ letter to give new hires a point of contact as they settle into their new positions.”

Points of Pride
Rae is continually energized by the diversity of the work she does on any given day. However, the aspect of her job that she finds most gratifying is the knowledge that she is a part of the rehabilitation process. “This can be a challenging environment, but I know how the inmates are treated here has an impact on how well they will succeed in their own health care when they return to society. The medical care and education they get helps them when they leave.”

New director joins Office of Technology Management

A ‘link’ in the support chain
The paradox of cancer is that it brings both sadness and inspiration. Cancer is now the number one cause of death for Americans under the age of 85. But it isn’t always a killer, and as research breakthroughs lead to improved therapies, statistics change for the better.

John Link is a statistic of survival and a source of inspiration. The University of Massachusetts Amherst graduate beat the rare form of bone cancer he contracted when he was 17. Now 25, and with his cancer in remission, Link has written a book — compiled from notes he jotted down for the treatment at UMass Memorial and his involvement with the Walk to Cure Cancer. “I hope this book will be valuable for young adults going through cancer, their family and friends,” he said. Part of the sales proceeds will support the Walk, this year scheduled for Sunday, September 25.

In 1997, wracked in Link’s left leg kept him from baseball practice and games. X-rays and physical therapy were prescribed, but the chronic sharp pain wasn’t present. Finally, an MRI revealed an aggressive bone cancer, osteosarcoma. “After the initial shock and confused fear of what awaited me, we decided to get a second opinion, with the same result,” said Link. “I had to face it head on.” Link’s treatment was three months of chemotherapy, followed by limb salvage surgery involving the implantation of a titanium prosthesis and the removal of cancerous bone. “Because of the aggressiveness and severity of the cancer, I was an inpatient for my treatment. UMass became my home.” Three months into treatment, the fatigued and nauseated teenager had lost nearly 50 pounds. But consultation with a nutritionist, in combination with medication, brought Link’s energy levels back. “With my increased energy, I was able to help coordinate a toy drive for the hospital through our church, attend high school as regularly as possible, and stay awake during treatments.” Link said the greatest change was in his attitude, a direct result of the “support chain” of family, friends and hospital staff.

In early 1998, with his mother and friends by his side, Link completed his chemotherapy. Today, he constantly monitors his health and regularly participates in the Walk, now in its seventh year. Through his book, The Link to Beating Cancer: The Real Life Story of a Teenage Cancer Survivor, he said he hopes readers will discover that “cancer can be part of your life, but it shouldn’t be your life.” His message will be repeated at the Walk’s Kick-off Breakfast at Holy Cross College on July 21, where team leaders from UMMMS, UMass Memorial and some 200 other community teams will receive all of the information they need to meet the $85,000 goal Walk organizers have set.

The Walk to Cure Cancer has raised over $27 million to support cancer research at UMMMS and is now the single largest fund-raising event in Central Massachusetts. Last year, employee teams contributed over $97,000. To reserve your place at the breakfast as a team leader, call X65520, or e-mail wtcc@umassmed.edu.

infocus
Walk to Cure Cancer

employees’ infocus

A stream of participants begins the five-mile trek around Lake Quinsigamond during last year’s Walk to Cure Cancer.

According to Jurdak, in addition to Rae’s daily responsibilities, including compiling daily incident reports for drafting the morning report and organizing sick call lines for scheduled clinics, she is always prepared to identify new ways to help. For example, Rae initiated a daily phone call to outpatient nursing staff to make sure that their needs are being met and their concerns addressed. Rae also strives to continually improve the efficiency of her work environment. She has trained the medical records clerks to perform record reviews, resulting in improved efficiency. Finally, Rae has embraced the chance to reach out to new UMass Correctional Health staff prior to their first day of work, to reassure them of the support they will receive in their new environment. “Starting at a new place can be kind of confusing,” I developed a ‘welcome aboard’ letter to give new hires a point of contact as they settle into their new positions.”

Points of Pride
Rae is continually energized by the diversity of the work she does on any given day. However, the aspect of her job that she finds most gratifying is the knowledge that she is a part of the rehabilitation process. “This can be a challenging environment, but I know how the inmates are treated here has an impact on how well they will succeed in their own health care when they return to society. The medical care and education they get helps them when they leave.”
Medical School interior work begins

During the past three years, Campus Modernization has had a significant impact on the exterior of the University Campus. Now, to meet the increasing demand for “modernization” of interior spaces, Facilities Management has embarked on a two-phase program to renovate and refurbish Medical School offices, corridors, and elevator lobbies.

The first phase of work, which began in late June and will continue for about six months, is the removal of existing windows along the Basic and Clinical Science wings and the installation of new window sill “panning” (aluminum trim that covers the gap in the window sill where the old window once resided). These windows were maintained to protect occupants from construction activity during the granite removal and curtainwall application in these areas.

The second phase of work, scheduled to begin this month and continue for approximately 24 months, will include the refurbishment of these same offices, encompassing a comprehensive cleaning; the installation of new tile and/or carpet; and the painting of walls, doors, ceilings and heat convector doors. While offices are being renovated, Facilities Management will also refurbish the corridors and elevator lobbies.

During both the window removal and refurbishment, staff will be required to vacate their offices and relocate to temporary office space in the Student Wing. (Clips- On) Expansion. For the window removal, the relocation timeframe will average one to two days; for refurbishment, about one month. Facilities Management will work with department administrators to identify work areas, finalize schedules and notify staff of these schedules in advance. They will also work to ensure that office equipment is available to staff members during their relocation.

Questions and comments may be directed to Kevin Norton at x6-3251 or Michael Gregory at x6-3666.

New benefits manager named

Maria Barrios has joined UMMS as the new benefits manager, reporting to Phillips Kerr, director of Compensation, Benefits and HR Services. Barrios, who earned a master’s degree from Boston University, previously worked in the Human Resources Department at Polaroid and as the benefits and training manager for Professional Aviation Management in Miami, a group providing service to the airline LAN Chile. She is fluent in Spanish and English and brings expertise in benefits and employee communications to her new role.

Transportation services change

Beginning this month, the UMMS Medical School Transportation Department will no longer distribute correspondence via courier from the University Campus to UMMS Memorial Health Care offshore hospitals and clinics. Instead, the UMMS Memorial Medical Center Transportation Department will assume responsibility for these services.

The Medical School will continue to support UMMS Memorial with trips to the Massachusetts Biologic Laboratories in Jamaica Plain. It will also maintain its acceptance of correspondence from employees on the University Campus that are sent to the off-site UMMS Memorial locations. For additional information, please contact Bill Tzakopoulos at x6-6508 or via global e-mail.

Calendar

- The Walk to Cure Cancer Kick-off Breakfast will be held Thursday, July 21 at the Hogan Center, College of the Holy Cross. Registration is at 7:30 a.m.; continental breakfast and speaker’s program will follow from 8 – 9 a.m. For more information, call Tamara Calten at x6-1614 or visit www.walktocurecancer.com

- Prime Time is hosting a New York City Shopping and Statue of Liberty Tour on Saturday, August 6. Participants will depart from the University Campus at 6:15 a.m. and return by approximately 11 p.m. Shopping will include Madison Avenue, Macy’s or the bargain friendly Lower East Side. Participants can also spend the day on Ellis Island, experiencing its history and touring the Statue of Liberty. Cost for the shopping trip is $99 per person; cost for the Statue/Ellis Island tour is $49, including ferry admission. For reservations, contact FOXY Travel, Inc. at 1-800-554-4585.

Walk to Cure Cancer

Saturday, September 25, 2005

Take part by forming or joining a team to support cancer research

For information, call Tamara Calten at x6-1614 or visit www.walktocurecancer.com

grants

- Usha Acharya, PhD, assistant professor of molecular medicine: “Cortisol Metabolism and Photoreceptor Homeostasis,” National Eye Institute, one year, $350,550; recommended for four more years, $1.5 million.

- Schubert Alkonian, MD, PhD, assistant professor of psychiatry: “Treating Depression with Histone Deacetylase Inhibitors,” National Institute of Mental Health, one year, $240,570; recommended for one more year, $241,470.

- Michael P. Cash, PhD, professor and chair of molecular medicine: “Properties of the High Affinity Insulin Receptors,” National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, one year, $497,440; recommended for three more years, $1.6 million.

- Jennifer S. Daly, MD, professor of medicine: “Categorical Grant Program to Provide Outpatient Early Intervention Services with Respect to HIV Disease,” Department of Health and Human Services, one year, $481,468; recommended for four more years, $1.9 million.

- Joonsoo Kang, PhD, assistant professor of pathology: “Regulation of T cell Development by SOX13,” National Cancer Institute, one year, $339,500; recommended for four more years, $1.3 million.

- Evgeny I. Rogov, PhD, professor of psychiatry: “Molecular-Genetic Mechanisms for Early-onset Obesity,” National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, one year, $155,800; recommended for two more years, $325,000.

- Alonso H. Ross, PhD, professor of biochemistry & molecular pharmacology: “Role of Doublecortin in Glia Cell Invasiveness,” National Cancer Institute, one year, $139,320; recommended for one more year, $139,643.

- Yan Shi, PhD, research assistant professor of pathology: “Molecular Identification of an Endogenous Adjuvant,” National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, one year, $220,500; recommended for one more year, $243,563.

- Reininda N. Singh, PhD, assistant professor of medicine: “Characterization of a Novel Intronic Elemental as the Potential Therapeutic Target for SMA,” National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, one year, $405,000; recommended for one more year, $437,500.

- Janet M. Stavnezer, PhD, professor of molecular genetics & microbiology: “Molecular Basis of Immunoglobulin Heavy Chain Switch,” National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, one year, $405,000; recommended for one more year, $437,500.

- Pratima A. Trivedi, PhD, assistant professor of neurology: “Expression and Function of the Nogo A Receptor in the CNS During Development,” National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, one year, $155,800; recommended for two more years, $325,000.

- Lee M. Valeri, PhD, assistant professor of medicine: “Molecular Identification of Endogenous Adjuvant,” National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, one year, $339,500; recommended for four more years, $1.3 million.

- Joonsoo Kang, PhD, assistant professor of pathology: “Regulation of T cell Development by SOX13,” National Cancer Institute, one year, $339,500; recommended for four more years, $1.3 million.

- Evgeny I. Rogov, PhD, professor of psychiatry: “Molecular-Genetic Mechanisms for Early-onset Obesity,” National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, one year, $155,800; recommended for two more years, $325,000.

- Alonso H. Ross, PhD, professor of biochemistry & molecular pharmacology: “Role of Doublecortin in Glia Cell Invasiveness,” National Cancer Institute, one year, $139,320; recommended for one more year, $139,643.

- Yan Shi, PhD, research assistant professor of pathology: “Molecular Identification of an Endogenous Adjuvant,” National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, one year, $220,500; recommended for one more year, $243,563.

- Reininda N. Singh, PhD, assistant professor of medicine: “Characterization of a Novel Intronic Elemental as the Potential Therapeutic Target for SMA,” National Institute of Spinal Muscular Atrophy, two years, $154,314.

- Janet M. Stavnezer, PhD, professor of molecular genetics & microbiology: “Molecular Basis of Immunoglobulin Heavy Chain Switch,” National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, one year, $405,000; recommended for one more year, $437,500.

- Pratima A. Trivedi, PhD, assistant professor of neurology: “Expression and Function of the Nogo A Receptor in the CNS During Development,” National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, one year, $155,800; recommended for two more years, $325,000.

- Lee M. Valeri, PhD, assistant professor of medicine: “Molecular Identification of Endogenous Adjuvant,” National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, one year, $339,500; recommended for four more years, $1.3 million.