

Dean's Newsletter

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Appointment of Senior Associate Dean for Medical Education

I am extremely pleased to announce that Dr. Julie Parsonnet has agreed to serve as our new Senior Associate Dean for Medical Student Education. She will officially begin her new responsibilities in October 2001.

Dr. Parsonnet is currently the Chief of the Division of Infectious Diseases in the Department of Medicine and an Associate Professor of Medicine. She has won international praise for her research on the role of *Helicobacter pylori* and gastric cancer. Dr. Parsonnet is also an outstanding clinician and wonderful Division Chief who has won the admiration and respect of her colleagues, fellows and students. Importantly she is an outstanding teacher and is enormously committed to the future of medical student education. I am confident that her leadership and combined with her collaborations with the Faculty Senate, our faculty and students, will allow Stanford to excel even further as an institution committed to training tomorrow's thought leaders and physician-scientists. Dr. Parsonnet understands the scientific underpinnings of modern medicine as well as the art of care for human suffering.

Prior to joining the Stanford faculty in 1989 Dr. Parsonnet was a resident and then ID Fellow at the Massachusetts General Hospital as well as an EIS (Epidemic Intelligence Service) Officer at the Centers for Disease Control. She did her undergraduate at Harvard, where she graduated *magna cum laude* and was an AOA graduate from Cornell Medical College. She is the recipient of numerous awards and honors and has been elected to both the American Society for Clinical Investigation and the American Epidemiological Society.

As with the other recently appointed Senior Associate Deans, Dr. Parsonnet will perform her new responsibilities part-time. This will enable her to continue her important research and clinical care responsibilities. As such, she will stay engaged with faculty and students as both an active investigator and clinician. I am confident that this will make her even better prepared to carry out and manage the scope of her new responsibilities. She will work closely with the Faculty Senate and our other Senior Associate Deans to review and renew the medical student curriculum, training of MD/PhD students and other

combined degree pathways. She will also have oversight over the Medical Scholars Programs and Continuing Medical Education. Dr. Parsonnet will also be the leader of our planning efforts for new education and information center facilities, working closely with other members of the Dean's Office and Stanford Medical Student Association and Graduate Student Association.

I want to thank the very large number of faculty and students who helped in the selection of Dr. Parsonnet for this important position. I am particularly grateful to an internal search committee that was chaired by Dr. Harvey Cohen, Professor of Pediatrics and that included Drs. Don Regula (Pathology), Charlotte Jacobs (Medicine), Mark Krasnow (Biochemistry) and Charles Prober (Pediatrics). I also want to acknowledge the help and guidance I received from the Faculty Senate.

Update on Hospital Issues

Although August generally brings closure to budget proposals and portends the beginning of a new fiscal year, the leadership at Stanford Hospital and Clinics (SHC) has been charged by the SHC Board of Trustees to carry out additional cost reductions before a final FY02 budget can be approved. This was driven by shortfalls in meeting expected budget forecasts and by rising costs, including those for employee health benefits. Accordingly, the Interim CEO, Mike Peterson, has assembled Hospital VPs and several faculty leaders, including Drs. Peter Gregory, Larry Shuer, Norm Rizk, Tom Krummel, Judy Swain and Richard Hoppe, to work collaboratively during the next three weeks to reduce expenses by an additional \$13 million. This requires a careful and expeditious examination of major cost centers, including personnel as well as supplies and other services.

Without question these new cost reductions, which follow the very significant efforts made during the last several months, present challenges to hospital management. Nonetheless, they are necessary in order to assure continued financial recovery and ultimately, a more fiscally robust SHC.

Although cost-reduction and re-engineering efforts will surely continue into the future at SHC, and virtually every teaching hospital in the USA, it is important to underscore that they will ultimately yield more positive results. This has been the experience at other teaching hospitals and academic medical centers around the country and I am confident that it will take place at Stanford as well. I have been through a somewhat similar situation in the past and understand how difficult this process can be on an entire medical community. In an ironic way, it is similar to running a marathon (something else I have had lots of experience with over many years). Often the last several miles of a marathon are the hardest. Although it is hard to gauge exactly how many more miles we have to go in the current marathon affecting SHC, there will be an ending – and I do believe a victory. The only measure of success that we can accept is an institution that is able to carry out excellent and innovative patient care and which uses new knowledge gained from research to improve the lives of patients and families.

Congratulations to the Center for Clinical Immunology at Stanford (CCIS) Students and Mentors

The faculty members associated with the CCIS under the leadership of Drs. Paul Utz and Gary Fathman did another wonderful job by providing summer research internship to promising high school students. The 8-week internship experience not only exposed students (who were selected from an exceptional group of applicants) to outstanding science, but also helped to fuel their interests to pursue careers in medicine and biomedical research. The Internship culminated in poster presentations by students of their work to faculty, parents and, of course, each other. Dr. James Nelson, Senior Associate Dean for Research, Graduate Education and Postdoctoral Affairs, commented after viewing various posters that “I was impressed with [the students] knowledge of their work and, more importantly, their grasp of the significance of both the biological questions and answers they had obtained. They spoke confidently and all had clearly enjoyed their projects and interactions with CCIS faculty. It is clear that the experience has reinforced their goals to follow science in the future.” This, in the end, is the evidence of the success of such a program.

Again, congratulations to all the students who participated in the CCIS Summer Internship Program and thanks to the faculty of CCIS and the efforts of Drs. Utz and Fathman.

SUMMIT Site Visit

On Monday, August 12th, the SUMMIT (Stanford University Medical Media and Information Technologies) Program was site visited by the National Library of Medicine (NLM), which is part of the National Institutes of Health. Principle Investigator, Dr. Pavarti Dev, and Co-Principle Investigator, Dr. W. LeRoy Heinrichs, did an outstanding job in putting together an excellent series of presentations about a program that is enormously important to the future of medical education.

SUMMIT investigators and staff design, develop, implement and manage on line medical courses. The program has developed both CD-ROM and web based products that support the learning of human anatomy, neuroanatomy, microbiology and nutrition. Additional programs are in development. Moreover, SUMMIT investigators and staff are developing new technologies for education including real-time, remote simulation, virtual labs in physiology and interactive simulated patient experiences.

The NLM reviewers had the opportunity to tour the SUMMIT programs in current operation as well as those in development. Among the venues they learned about was the “Next generation internet gigabit test bed at Stanford”; the anatomy workbench; the surgery workbench; the interactive simulated patient. These and related programs and projects demonstrate how information technology is changing the way medical education will take place in the future and the important role it will play in the future training of medical and graduate students.

I want to thank Drs. Dev and Heinrichs as well as their colleagues and students for the important work they are conducting and for the impressive demonstration they offered to the NLM.

Visit to Palo Alto Medical Foundation

On Monday, August 12th, Dr. Peter Gregory, Dr. Norm Rizk and I visited the Palo Alto Medical Clinic and had the opportunity to meet with Drs. David Drucker and Francis Marzoni. The Palo Alto Medical Foundation began around 1930 and has a long history of medical care and research. A number of distinguished Stanford faculty also have their laboratory programs at the PAMF. Although I have heard much about PAMF since my arrival, this was the first opportunity available for a visit to the Clinic's facilities on El Camino. During the visit we had an opportunity to learn more of the past history surrounding the PAMF and Stanford and to discuss the important role each plays in this community. We also had a tour of the new facilities, which are certainly impressive. I want to thank Drs. Drucker and Marzoni for hosting us and I will look forward to future visits and discussions with them.

Visit to SLAC

On Wednesday August 15th, Dr. James Nelson, Senior Associate Dean for Research, Graduate Education and Postdoctoral Affairs, and I had a wonderful visit to SLAC (Stanford Linear Accelerator Center). We were kindly hosted by Professors Jonathan Dorfman, Director, and Keith Hodgson, Associate Director. The visit was stimulated because of the growing alliance between investigators at SLAC and the biomedical research community at Stanford. Ultimately this might lead to a BioX West facility at SLAC that would provide important new interactions enhancing Stanford's efforts in macromolecular crystallography, structural biology, structural genomics and proteomics, and biocomputation, as well as other areas interfacing physics, chemistry, biology, and engineering with potential applications for drug design, imaging, etc.

SLAC is a remarkable facility on a 340-acre campus leased by the federal government on Stanford land. There are two major areas: high energy physics/particle astrophysics and synchrotron radiation (which uses high-intensity x-ray beams for studies in physics, biology, chemistry, medicine and environmental sciences). In addition to the full time staff at SLAC (distinguished by 3 Nobel Laureates), SLAC and SSRL (Stanford Synchrotron Radiation Laboratory) host long and short-term students and investigators from around the world, including 89 U.S. and 58 foreign universities, as well as U.S. companies and laboratories. All the work carried out at SLAC is based on peer reviewed fundamental research that is unclassified and published in leading journals. The record of accomplishment has been exceptional. Among these are a number of very distinguished faculty members from the School of Medicine.

We also had an opportunity to tour some of the facilities and learn more about the future plans for SLAC and SSRL. It is clear that there will be considerable opportunities for important interactions between the School of Medicine and SLAC in the future.

Indeed these interactions are likely to prove very exciting both in basic research as well as in applications that can improve approaches to drug development and medical treatment.

Appointments and Promotions

The following appointments and reappointments were reported from the August 15th Advisory Board meeting:

Miriam Goodman was appointed Assistant Professor of Molecular & Cellular Physiology, 9/1/01-8/31/04

Merritt Maduke was appointed Assistant Professor of Molecular & Cellular Physiology, 9/1/01-8/31/04

Marilyn Winkleby was appointed Associate Professor of Medicine (Research), 8/1/01-7/31/07

Sylvia Plevritis was appointed Assistant Professor of Radiology (Research), 9/1/01-8/31/04