

Dean's Newsletter

April 28, 2003

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SARS and Stanford

In recent weeks concerns about the impact of SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) has been increasing globally. Contacts of medical staff with colleagues in Toronto raise additional concerns since nosocomial spread appears to have occurred despite rigorous isolation procedures. Based on the current data and the increasing concerns about potential impact in the USA, Dr. Lucy Tompkins, Chief of the Division of Infectious Diseases, met with the Council of Clinical Chairs on Friday April 25th and made the following recommendations

- Travel by faculty to the endemic areas (China/Taiwan, Vietnam (especially Hanoi), Singapore, Hong Kong, Toronto) should be strongly discouraged. I recommended this some weeks ago and would argue that such travel should not take place unless the business is officially related to assisting with the SARS efforts. Should faculty decide to travel – or have recently traveled, it is important that on their return, they carefully monitor themselves and not come to work if fever or respiratory symptoms have developed.
- Stanford Hospital & Clinics (SHC) has determined that its employees will not be permitted to travel to endemic areas on hospital-related projects.

- When or if a suspected case of SARS is referred SHC, the evaluation should not occur in the Emergency Department. A special facility is being identified for such evaluations. Please contact the ID service if you are aware of a patient coming for evaluation so that appropriate precautions can be taken.
- If a patient is admitted for SARS evaluation or treatment, they will be cared for in a special facility (likely G1/H1).
- Health care workers who have contact with suspected SARS patients will be required to wear isolation suits, goggles, N95 masks, double gloves, etc. Again, the ID service and Infection Control will provide details as appropriate.
- Additional precautionary methods and procedures are being developed by an expert panel and these will be announced shortly.
- New referrals of international patients will be deferred until appropriate protocols for handling such patients have been further defined.
- Appropriate precaution signage providing guidance to visitors and staff will be posted at entry points to the Hospital and Clinics.

It is clearly incumbent on all of our Stanford community to exercise appropriate vigilance and caution. Questions should be directed to the ID service.

A Curriculum by any Other Name

We need your help. As you know, we are making significant progress with our new and evolving curriculum for medical education. Indeed, Senior Associate Dean for Medical Education, Dr. Julie Parsonnet, who is working closely with the Faculty Senate, is confident that significant components of the new curriculum will commence with the arrival of our incoming medical student class this fall.

We are, however, lacking a name that defines our curriculum and that raises excitement – and indeed questions – about what we are doing and why. In the early 1960’s, the then new curriculum was commonly referred to as the “Stanford Plan” or the “Stanford Five Year Plan”. In the interim, the unique character of the Stanford Curriculum has been more tempered.

So we need your help with a name for our new curriculum. You will recall that the new curriculum will be characterized by parallel training in both basic and clinical medicine throughout the years of medical school; an attempt to reduce the burden of new knowledge to a more manageable quotient and with the view of creating a path to life time learning; and, the opportunity for scholarly concentrations (or majors) permitting students to engage in original research and/or investigation.

Our goal is to have our medical student graduates be excellent clinicians but also leaders, scholars, investigators and advocates. How to best characterize our new curriculum is where we need your input. We have entertained names like the “Frontiers Curriculum” to the LEAD Curriculum (Learning to Explore, Advocate and Discover)” but we have not found a name that achieves either consensus or excitement. Please share any thoughts for names of our new curriculum with me. We need your help!

Stanford Medical School Events

The last weeks have been hallmarked by some wonderful annual or first time events by Stanford Medical School Faculty. I am mentioning a handful of them in this Newsletter because of their special importance and value to the community.

Beckman Symposium

On April 14-15, the 13th Beckman Symposium was held in the Fairchild Auditorium on “Stem Cells, Regenerative Medicine, and Cancer”. Thanks to the symposium organizers, Drs. Irv Weissman and Seung Kim, a spectacular group of faculty speakers was assembled to update the packed audience on cutting edge results in stem cell biology. Additional recognition must go to Dr. Lucy Shapiro, Director of the Beckman Center, and Ms. Belinda Byrne for their work in making this event so successful. In addition to discussing the science and potential translational applications of these important discoveries, a review of the controversies surrounding this important field was discussed in a panel moderated by Dr. Irv Weissman that included Drs. Paul Berg, Margaret Fuller, Harold Varmus, Rudolf Jaenisch, M. Azim Surani, James Thomson and Linda Giudice.

As you know, we have committed ourselves to focusing on this important area of research through the creation of the Stanford Institute for Cancer/Stem Cell Biology and Medicine that is directed by Dr. Irv Weissman. We believe that enormous opportunities exist for understanding cancer and other genetically mediated diseases through the use of nuclear transfer to create new pluripotent stem cell lines. Unfortunately, NIH support for this research is not currently permitted, due to a current federal policy, announced in August 2001, that restricts federal funding for research to stem cell lines that were in existence at that time.

Although research on nuclear transfer to develop pluripotent stem cell lines can not currently be funded by the NIH, it has considerable promise for developing new treatments for cancer, heart disease, spinal cord injuries and other devastating diseases. The two seemingly disparate fields of cancer and stem cells are united by the fact that both stem cells and cancer cells have the remarkable ability to divide indefinitely. Studying the process by which stem cells grow and divide will provide insight into the biology of malignant cells. This knowledge can help guide approaches to blocking or correcting the abnormalities that take place when a cell changes from normal to malignant. In addition, normal stem cells can play a direct role in treating cancer by replacing cells damaged by chemotherapy or radiation treatment.

Absent a policy change to provide federal funding support to develop new stem cell lines or utilize nuclear transfer, progress will assuredly be slowed in the United State and probably accelerated around the world.

It also is important to remember that similar concerns were voiced twenty five years ago when genetic engineering permitted medical researchers to insert human genes into bacteria. However, with appropriate oversight new research led by Dr. Paul Berg and others was allowed to continue and has resulted in numerous new therapies for human disease. Stem cell research has even greater potential. If the federal government does not act to support research that has the potential to generate similar dramatic improvements in human health, the nation may pay a

terrible price in lost opportunities to fight cancer and other catastrophic diseases. We clearly need to sustain our advocacy for supporting stem cell research.

Stanford Chemistry and Genomics Symposium

On April 17th the Stanford Chemistry and Genomics Symposium was held for the first time in the Fairchild Auditorium. Directed by Tobias Meyer and Bisera More, an impressive faculty was gathered to address a packed auditorium that addressed cutting edge science. There seems little doubt that this will become an annual event.

I had the privilege of joining with Dr. Marvin Classman, Director of the QB3 Program to address the exciting opportunities that are unfolding in interdisciplinary research at Stanford and in the UC system. There is little doubt that the efforts underway at Stanford in BioX and Bioengineering, as well as our focus on translational medicine and the Stanford Institutes of Medicine, are stimulating an environment that is bringing together biologists, medical scientists, engineers, computer scientists, physicists, chemists and others to address the revolution underway in the biosciences. I truly believe that the programs at Stanford are nonpareil, largely because the faculty and students are interested and committed to exploring the important interfaces and new opportunities that lie at the intersections of traditional disciplines. It is encouraging to also hear about the progress being made in the QB3 project. Given these efforts it seems likely that California will take an important lead in the new fields of systems biology and translational medicine.

From Stem Cells to Breakthrough Therapies: A Mini-Course in Medicine

On Monday evening April 21st, the School of Medicine held a mini-course in medicine that attracted over 250 members of our community – both within and outside the University. Following an introductory lecture by Dr. Irv Weissman, Beekhus Professor of Pathology and Director of the Stanford Institute for Cancer/Stem Cell Biology and Medicine, the attendees had the option to attend one of eight small group lectures and discussion groups lead by a prominent faculty member. Our speakers included Drs. Paul Berg, Helen Beau, Karl Blume, Mike Cleary, Seung Kim, Ron Levy, Joe Lipsick and Theo Palmer. I want to thank each of them for the terrific jobs they did.

The feedback we have received already about this mini-course in medicine has been spectacular and we intend to make this a regular event. It is clear that our community is eager to learn more about the exciting work taking place at Stanford – and I am quite sure that the more we can engage and educate our community about biomedical research and translational medicine, they better prepared they will be to advocate for Stanford Medicine in the future.

Jeffrey Modell Foundation Symposium on Primary Immunodeficiencies

Thanks to the support of Fred and Vickie Modell, who founded the Jeffrey Modell Foundation in memory of their son who died from a primary immunodeficiency disorder, a special symposium was held on Friday April 25th to educate the community on the approach to the diagnosis, management and treatment of primary immunodeficiency disorders. Dr. David Lewis, Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Director of the Division of Infectious Disease, chaired this event that featured internationally recognized authorities in this field. While primary

immunodeficiency disorders are rare, their study has contributed an enormous amount of knowledge and insight into the immune development and function – as well as dysfunction.

Notification of Future Lectures and Meetings

Being aware of upcoming lectures and events can be difficult to say the least. Thanks to Praveen Morusupalli, Kevin Boyd, Michael Halaas, Henry Lowe, and members of the Information Resources and Technology group, a central website has been set up that will contain all of the upcoming events and lectures at Stanford Medicine. You can access it now at <http://www.med.stanford.edu/seminars/>. In the near future, you will receive the information by email daily (should you choose to subscribe) – and I am confident this will be a great service and benefit to our community. Thanks to John Boothroyd and everyone who worked on this important initiative.

Town Hall Meeting for Postdoctoral Fellows

On Wednesday April 23rd, the Annual Postdoc Town Hall Meeting was held in the Fairchild Auditorium. Thanks to the leadership of Drs. Mark Siegal, Karen Christopherson, and Maureen Fitch-Bruhns, considerable progress has been made to assist postdoctoral scholars during the past couple of years. The SUPD (Stanford University Postdoc) organization has developed an email listing for all current postdocs, has initiated a social committee to bring the community of postdocs together and has created a postdoc advocacy committee. Importantly, the SUPD has worked with the Dean's office to improve salary and benefits levels for postdocs. And while there is much left to accomplish, it is clear that progress has been made to improve the lives and well-being of postdocs at Stanford. Given the importance that this community of scholars has to our research, education and patient care missions, it is essential that their value be acknowledged and rewarded.

In addition to the work going on through the SUPD, Karen Christopherson discussed the role of the National Postdoctoral Association that she has helped to found. The NPA seeks to provide a voice for postdoctoral scientists, elucidate the “best-practice” policies for postdocs based on experiences at different institutions and work collaboratively with government agencies and professional organizations to advocate for improvements in postdoctoral policies. You can find out more about the NPA through the website: <http://www.nationalpostdoc.org>

I want to thank again the leadership role that Drs. Siegel, Christopherson and Fitch-Bruhns are playing both at Stanford and nationally to address important issues that affect the quality of life and training opportunities for postdoctoral scholars

Awards and Honors

- **Dr. Michael Cleary** has been named the first holder of the Lindhard Family Professorship in Pediatric Cancer Biology. A world-renowned expert in cancer genetics, especially regarding leukemias, Dr. Cleary has made fundamental contributions to elucidating the role of primary mutations in the pathogenesis of leukemia. He is also recognized for establishing the first molecular diagnostics laboratory at Stanford. He is currently a

professor of pathology and pediatrics and serves as the director of the cancer biology program within the Center for Cancer and Blood Diseases at the Lucile Packard Children's Hospital. Congratulations to Dr. Cleary.

- **Dr. Axel Brunger**, Professor of Molecular & Cellular Physiology and of Neurology & Neurological Sciences, has been named the co-recipient of the Gregori Aminoff Prize for 2003 “for his development of refinement techniques for macromolecules”. The Gregori Aminoff Prize is awarded by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences and is intended to reward a documented, individual contribution in the field of crystallography, including areas concerned with the dynamics of the formation and dissolution of crystal structures. The Aminoff Prize was awarded for the first time in 1979. The laureates will receive the prize at a ceremony at the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences in Stockholm on September 10, 2003. Congratulations to Dr. Brunger.
- **Dr. Linda Cork** has been named the Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the California Biomedical Research Association. Congratulations to Dr. Cork.
- **Provost Honors Award Winners**. On Tuesday April 22nd, Provost John Etchemendy held a Faculty Reception at the Hanna House honoring major award recipients and faculty elected to national academies during the past 18 months. Faculty throughout the University were honored and among them, members of the School of Medicine featured prominently. They included:
 - **William Newsome, Professor of Neurobiology** : 2002 American Psychological Association Distinguished Scientific Contribution Award
 - **Patrick Brown, Professor of Biochemistry**: Elected to the National Academy of Sciences
 - **Michael Levitt, Professor of Structural Biology**: Elected to the National Academy of Sciences
 - **Roger Kornberg, Professor of Structural Biology**: Welch Prize in Chemistry
 - **Roeland Nusse, Professor of Developmental Biology**: Elected to the American Academy of Arts and Science
 - **Christopher Garcia, Assistant Professor of Microbiology and Immunology and of Structural Biology**: Distinguished Young Scholar Award from the Keck Foundation
 - **Linda Giudice, Stanley McCormick Memorial Professor in the School of Medicine** : Elected to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences
 - **Richard Kempson, Professor of Pathology, Emeritus**: Elected as Fellow to the American Association for the Advancement of Science
 - **Eric Knudsen, Edward C. and Amy H. Sewall Professor in the School of Medicine**: Elected to the National Academy of Science
 - **Michael Moseley, Associate Professor of Radiology**: International Society for Magnetic Resonance in Medicine Gold Medal
 - **Randal Pham, Adjunct Clinical Educator**: Best Clinical Science Award from the American Society for Laser Medicine and Surgery

- **Eric Shooter, Professor of Neurobiology:** Elected to the American Philosophical Society
- **Kelly Skeff, Professor of Medicine:** Abraham Flexner Award in Medical Education from the Association of American Medical Colleges
- **Peter Small, Assistant Professor of Medicine:** Princess Chichibu Memorial TB Global Award for 2002
- **Lubert Stryer, Mrs. George A. Winzer Professor of Cell Biology :** Molecular Bioanalytics Prize from the German Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
- **Irving Weissman, Karel and Avice Beekhuis Professor of Cancer Biology, Professor of Pathology and Developmental Biology:** Elected to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Science
- **Michael Marmor, Professor of Ophthalmology:** Best Clinical Science Award from the American Society for Laser Medicine and Surgery

Congratulations to all – and to other faculty who achieved honors and awards during the past year.

- **Students Awarded Research Training Fellowships**

Five of our medical students were awarded Howard Hughes Medical Institute Research Training Fellowship for Medical students to work at Stanford:

- **Andrew Kopelman, MS II** will be working with Dean Felsher, MD, PhD, Department of Medicine (Oncology) – investigating Myc’s role in tumorigenesis using a novel *in vitro* system to titrate oncogene expression.
- **Theodore Leng, MS III** will be working with Mark Blumenkranz, MD and Harvey Fishman, MD, Department of Ophthalmology - designing a means to correct for macula degeneration.
- **Robin Price, MS III** will be working with Theo Palmer, PhD, Department of Neurosurgery - investigating the effects of perinatal ischemia on neuron stem cell functions and brain development.
- **Giridhar Shivaram, MS II** will be working with Christopher Jacobs, PhD, Department of Mechanical Engineering and Department of Orthopedic Surgery - investigating oscillatory fluid flow and gene expression in mesenchymal stem cells.
- **David Wang, MS III** will be working with Michael Dake, MD, Department of Radiology - determining the relative roles of proliferation and lesions related to in-stent restenosis.

A sixth medical student was awarded a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Research Training Fellowship for Medical Students to undertake research at the University of California, San Francisco Cancer Center:

- **Peter Jun, MS II** will be working with Dr. Joseph Costello --investigating the epigenetic mechanism of tumor growth -utilizing the excellent resource of material at the Neurosurgery Tumor Bank at UCSF.

Announcements:

Stanford Medical Student Research Symposium

On Thursday, May 1st, the Twentieth Annual Stanford Medical Student Research Symposium will be held in the Dean's Courtyard and in classrooms M104 and M106. At 1:00 p.m. the symposium will be opened by Dr. Julie Parsonnet, Senior Associate Dean for Medical Education, and this year's keynote speaker will be Dr. Phyllis Dennery, Associate Professor of Pediatrics. Students will give oral presentations as well as poster presentations of their work. At 4:30 p.m., Dr. Pat Cross, Associate Dean for Medical Student Research and Scholarship will provide an overview of the symposium followed by award presentations by Dr. Ross Bright, Associate Dean for Alumni Affairs.

This promises to be a terrific event and I hope you will join our students for this year's Research Symposium.

New Core Labs Open

The Stanford Functional Genomics Facility (SFGF) and the Stanford Tissue Bank have recently moved into newly completed core laboratory space on the ground floor of the North wing of the CCSR building.

The SFGF manufactures DNA microarrays for Stanford investigators, and provides associated technology support for their use. For additional information, visit their website at <http://www.microarray.org/>. The Tissue Bank provides tissue acquisition and banking services to Stanford investigators using human tissues for their research, in compliance with local, State and Federal guidelines. For additional information, go to their website at <http://tissuebank.stanford.edu>.

You are invited to view the new facilities and learn more about these core resources at their co-hosted open house, on May 22nd from 11:00 am – 2:00 pm, in CCSR 0107; food and refreshments will be served.

Women's Health @ Stanford presents the 2nd Annual Women's Wellness Conference and Health Fair: *Transforming Stress Into Wellness*. This will be held on Saturday, May 10, 2003, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. at the Fairchild Auditorium at Stanford University Medical Center. The keynote address will be given by Dr. Robert M. Sapolsky. Admission fee payable at the door: \$50. For additional information and registration see the appended announcement, below.

Appointments and Promotions

- **Janice Brown** has been reappointed to Assistant Professor of Medicine (Bone Marrow Transplantation) at the Stanford University Medical Center, effective 4/1/2003 to 3/31/2006.
- **Hayes Gladstone** has been appointed to Assistant Professor of Dermatology at the Stanford University Medical Center, effective 4/1/2003 to 3/31/2006.
- **Jeffrey Gould** has been appointed to Professor of Pediatrics at the Lucile Salter Packard Children's Hospital, effective 4/1/2003 to 3/31/2008.

- **Henrikus Lemmens** has been reappointed to Associate Professor of Anesthesia at the Stanford University Medical Center, effective 5/1/2003 to 4/30/2004.
- **David Lee** has been reappointed to Assistant Professor of Medicine (Cardiovascular Medicine) at the Stanford University Medical Center, effective 4/1/2003 to 3/31/2006.
- **Ashima Madan** has been promoted to Associate Professor of Pediatrics (Neonatology) at the Lucile Salter Packard Children's Hospital, effective 4/1/2003 to 3/31/2008.
- **Christopher Ta** has been reappointed to Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology at the Stanford University Medical Center, effective 4/1/2003 to 3/31/2004.

-----ANNOUNCEMENT-----

*Women's Health @ Stanford Presents
2nd Annual Women's Wellness Conference and Health Fair:
Transforming Stress Into Wellness
Saturday, May 10, 2003, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Fairchild Auditorium at Stanford University Medical Center
Admission fee payable at the door: \$50*

A unique opportunity to gain insight from top Stanford experts about some of the stress and health issues that affect women today. Come discover the latest in mind and body health as we present a day of lectures, demonstrate stress reduction methods, and showcase a health fair, this Mother's Day weekend. Interact and share experiences with other women. Leave inspired to turn your stress into wellness!

Keynote address: Robert M. Sapolsky, Ph.D.

Robert M. Sapolsky has been called "one of the best scientist-writers of our time" and "the world's funniest neuroscientist". Dr. Sapolsky is professor of biology and neurology at Stanford University and a research associate with the Institute of Primate Research, National Museums of Kenya. He spends each summer in the Serengeti of East Africa to study the relationship between social hierarchy, personality, and stress-related diseases in baboons, leading to the discovery that sustained stress can damage the hippocampus, a region of the brain central to learning and memory. He is the author of *The Trouble with Testosterone*, *Why Zebras Don't Get Ulcers*, and *A Primate's Memoir*. A regular contributor to *Discover* and *The New Yorker*, and a recipient of a MacArthur Foundation genius grant, Dr. Sapolsky is a fascinating, lively, and engaging speaker.

Topics will include:

Stress and the heart
Abuse, stress, and health
Stress reduction, simplicity, and barriers to change
Qi gong
Massage
Mindfulness meditation
Forgiveness

Spirituality and wellness
Imagery for stress reduction

Door prizes from great local businesses to be given away. Lunch and refreshments will be served.

Career Closet Clothing Drive: Bring your donation of clean women's business clothing, on hangers, and receive \$10 off your admission fee. See www.careercloset.org for details.

Admission fee payable at the door: \$50. **Space is limited, reservations are required.**

Please call Jill at (650) 724-1824 or email jlazear@stanford.edu to reserve your space no later than **May 5**.

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