

Dean's Newsletter

September 15, 2003

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Welcome to Our New Graduate Students

Over the next several days our new graduate students will be arriving at Stanford. They will spend time getting acquainted with their new Stanford colleagues and will participate in the BIOMASS camping trip over next weekend. We will welcome them officially on Monday September 22nd. It is notable that not only do we have an outstanding group of entering graduate students this year but that they will number 100 women and men – making them the largest class to matriculate at the School of Medicine this academic year. We all look forward to having them join us.

Introduction to Scholarly Concentrations Begins for New Students

On Wednesday evening, September 3rd, introductions to incoming medical students about the opportunities offered within the new Scholarly Concentrations commenced. The plan is for them to learn about two Scholarly Concentrations at each of four review sessions. The September 3rd session featured presentations about course and research offerings in the “Immunology Concentration” and the “Bioethics and the Humanities Concentration”. On September 10th students learned about the “Health Policy Research Concentration” and the “Bioinformatics Concentration”. Recognizing that these programs are just getting underway, I was impressed with the excellent opportunities for scholarship and research in each of the areas presented to date. Each of the Scholarly Concentration Directors provided information about the course work that would accompany their specific area of inquiry. In a number of instances new courses have already been developed that are specific to the new concentration. Further, the opportunities for investigative or original research abound in each of these areas. I have also been pleased to note the considerable enthusiasm of our new students as they become partners in helping to further refine the New Stanford Curriculum over the years

ahead. (See also

<http://www.stanford.edu/dept/news/report/news/2003/september10/curriculum.html>).

It was just two years ago that we first began evaluating the curriculum and considering a process for change. Since then, considerable progress has been made in developing the conceptual framework and basic elements of the New Stanford Curriculum, of which the new Scholarly Concentrations are a unique and exciting component. This has been founded on the fundamental premise that we want our students to leave Stanford with the tools to permit them to transform the future of medicine. Whether their contributions will be in research, patient care, education, community service or other areas of medicine and science, our students should be equipped with the additional skills to propel their interests and deepen their knowledge. Our ultimate goal is that each student will be a committed leader, benefiting from the array of opportunities that abound in the School of Medicine in tandem with the expertise that lies throughout Stanford University.

The process of curriculum reform will be ongoing. During the past year, the focus has been on the general framework and the specifics of the first year. Over the months ahead, the Dean's Office and Faculty Senate will work collaboratively to further refine the first and second year curriculum. Coupled with this will be the continued integration of basic and clinical science throughout the years, including basic science mini-courses during clinical rotations.

It should not go unnoticed that curriculum change is central to the vitality of a professional school. It should nearly always be a work-in-progress. That said, the dimensions of the changes that are occurring at Stanford are quite significant and many have been accomplished on a remarkably short timeline. I want to thank again the many students, course leaders, faculty and staff who have worked so hard to make this happen. I also want to thank again Drs. Julie Parsonnet, Neil Gesundheit, Oscar Salvatierra, Ted Sectish and Ms. Betsy Porter for the enormous amount of effort they put into making the New Stanford Curriculum come alive this academic year.

Update from the Executive Committee: Plans to Assess Faculty Research and Clinical Affinities

During the past two years, we have invested considerable energy in developing and implementing the School's Strategic Plan *Translating Discoveries* (<http://medstrategicplan.stanford.edu>). In doing so we have worked hard to embrace input from faculty, students and staff throughout the School of Medicine. I have also provided regular updates on our progress in implementing the Plan – both in written communications like the Dean's Newsletter as well as departmental, town hall or less formal faculty or student meetings. Obviously one of my major goals is to do everything possible to communicate our plans and challenges to the medical school community – and hopefully to get feedback from you.

As we now begin planning for our third Leadership Retreat that will be held on January 28-31, 2004, it seems appropriate to assess how aligned and engaged our faculty are with our various interdisciplinary initiatives and equally importantly, to get insights from them about additional or new potential research and clinical opportunities we should consider for the future.

Accordingly, at the September 5th Executive Committee, we discussed our plans to conduct a web-based simple survey of all of our faculty that will hopefully shed light on their affinity with programs we have already identified (e.g., the Stanford Institutes of Medicine) as well as to identify new areas of opportunity they believe should be pursued at the School.

We will be contacting you in the next couple of weeks to complete this survey – which will be short and simple to do. We are hoping to hear from everyone. Please look for it when it comes and complete it. I am very interested in your response and input.

Update Regarding University Interdisciplinary Research Planning

Interdisciplinary research and education are permeating throughout Stanford. They will also be the theme of several University-wide initiatives that are currently being planned or initiated and featured prominently the discussion of the Executive Cabinet meeting that was held on Monday September 8th. Among these will be Stanford as an International University; the Arts; Energy and the Environment; and Bioengineering/BioX. The school has a role in each of these areas, especially the Bioengineering/BioX initiatives. These also feature prominently in the School of Medicine interdisciplinary efforts in education (such as our New Stanford Curriculum) and in our new Stanford Institutes of Medicine. Updates on these evolving themes will be featured in future Newsletters.

Stethoscope Dinner for New Medical Students

On Friday evening September 5th, we held the annual Stethoscope Ceremony for the Entering Class of 2003 (including four students transferring into upper classes). The Stanford Medical Alumni Association and the School of Medicine sponsor this very special event. Our new students, family and friends gathered for an evening of fun and festivity in the Faculty Club where they learned more about each other, heard offerings from Dr. Ross Bright, Associate Dean for Alumni Affairs, Linda Clever, President of the Stanford Medical Alumni Association, Julie Parsonnet, Senior Associate Dean for Medical Education and me. Students also received advice on how to cope with the years in medical School from Ben Bruce, SMS 3 and President, Stanford Medical Student Association. His talk entitled "*Things You Thought You Would Never Hear at A Stethoscope Ceremony At A Medical School*" was very well received.

The heart of the event is the handing out of stethoscopes to each of the new students. This takes the place of the traditional "white coat" ceremony held at most medical schools and, in my opinion, is more meaningful since the stethoscope not only

serves as a tool and symbol in medicine, but equally importantly connects the physician to her or his patient – creating that important human connection.

Launch of the Community Lecture Series

Thanks to the inspiration of Senior Associate Deans for Research, Graduate and Postdoctoral Education John Boothroyd and Harry Greenberg and the support of the Office of Medical Development, the School launched the first of its yearlong Community Lecture Series. Each department within the School will host sessions throughout the year. The lead off event was coordinated by the Departments of Medicine and Cardio-thoracic Surgery and was entitled “Rejuvenating the Heart: Current Technologies and Future Promise.” Drs. Bruce Reitz, Bobby Robbins, Paul Wang, Alan Yeung and Judy Swain each spoke to a nearly filled Fairchild Auditorium of our neighboring communities about advances in the treatment of heart disease and heart failure, much of which has been pioneered at Stanford.

The next lecture will be held on October 1st at 7:00 p.m. in the Fairchild Auditorium. Drs. Linda Shortliffe, Joseph C. Presti, Jr., James D. Brooks, and Thomas Hsu will present: “Everyone Needs A Urologist: Problems of Incontinence, Stones, Cancer, Fertility, and Development.”

Continuing Medical Education in Clinical Immunology

On Saturday, September 6th, the Federation of Clinical Immunology Societies (FOCIS) Center for Clinical Immunology at Stanford (CCIS) and the UCSF Center for Clinical Immunology joined together to sponsor a continuing medical education symposium. It was also an opportunity to describe the accomplishments of FOCIS in establishing centers of excellence throughout the world that “intensify and accelerate local multidisciplinary scientific innovation in research, education and patient care.” Stanford’s CCIS, led by Dr. Gary Fathman, Professor of Medicine (Immunology and Rheumatology) is one of twenty-two FOCIS Centers.

At Stanford, the Center for Clinical Immunology has as its mission, “to educate physicians and trainees and the public in order to bring discoveries in basic science to medical disciplines ranging from cancer to diabetes and from arthritis to infectious disease, bridging the spectrum of research from the genetic and molecular level to clinical trials, sharing information and resources in order to speed the transition of new therapies from the laboratory to the patient’s bedside.” Over the years the CCIS has played an important role in education of students from high school to the postdoctoral level and in research and clinical care. Much of this has been through the leadership of Gary Fathman and his colleagues.

Importantly, the CCIS fits very nicely into the broader agenda of the School of Medicine, including our focus on “translating discoveries.” Further, the CCIS will play an integral role in one of our Stanford Institutes of Medicine – the Institute for Immunology, Transplantation and Infection.

Help Needed for the Pacific Free Clinic

I have been asked by some of our medical students to let you know that students and faculty physicians are needed to volunteer their time at a new clinic being operated by students from the School of Medicine. The Pacific Free Clinic provides basic health-care services to low-income adults in Santa Clara County. It is open on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Overfelt High School, 1835 Cunningham Road in San Jose.

Like the Arbor Free Clinic, which Stanford medical students have operated in Menlo Park for the past 13 years, the Pacific Free Clinic offers primary care services, medications, laboratory tests, medical and insurance referrals and screenings for diabetes, high blood pressure and elevated cholesterol. All services are free, and interpreters are available to assist patients who speak Spanish, Vietnamese and Mandarin Chinese. Medical students, undergraduates and volunteer physicians from Stanford and the community, will staff the clinic. While students will run the clinic and take medical histories, physicians will perform the actual exams and diagnose the patients.

Although the idea for the clinic surfaced a few years ago, the project gained momentum last summer when The Health Trust, a foundation dedicated to improving the well-being of Santa Clara County residents, offered Pacific Free Clinic the use of its facilities at Overfelt High School. The site, located between predominantly Latino and Vietnamese communities, is an ideal location for serving immigrant patients.

The clinic is also currently recruiting students who speak Spanish, Vietnamese or Mandarin Chinese, as well as physicians. If you are interested in volunteering please contact David Wang at davidwang@stanford.edu. Additional information about the clinic is also available on the Internet at <http://pacific.stanford.edu>.

The Pacific Free Clinic is jointly sponsored by the Stanford School of Medicine and the School-Based Health Clinics of The Health Trust, soon to be known as School Health Clinics of Santa Clara County. Other supporters include the California HealthCare Foundation, Kaiser Permanente, Chanwell Medical Group and private donors.

Awards

- **Dr. David K. Stevenson**, Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and the Harold K. Faber Professor of Pediatrics and Professor, by courtesy of Obstetrics and Gynecology received "The Duane Alexander Award for Academic Leadership in Perinatal Medicine which is presented annually to a distinguished academic leader who has enhanced the education of young clinician and scientists". The Award was presented at the annual NICHD/University of Colorado Aspen Conference on Maternal-Fetal-Neonatal-Reproductive Medicine in August 2003.

Announcements

Dean's SPIRIT Award

The School of Medicine's third annual SPIRIT Award Program will take place during the fall of 2003. This award acknowledges two staff members - one exempt and one nonexempt - who have been selected for providing outstanding contributions to the mission and vision of the School of Medicine. Dean Pizzo will award each of the two selected staff members with a \$1,000 cash prize and an "A" parking sticker for the coming year at the School's Annual Staff Recognition Banquet in November.

Any faculty, staff, student, fellow and post doc working at the School of Medicine may nominate any eligible staff members (i.e., non-exempt, bargaining unit and exempt) in any department or administrative area who meet the award criteria:

- S - service-orientation
- P - positive attitude
- I - initiative
- R - resourcefulness/reliability
- I - innovation
- T - team player

Staff members must have been employed as regular employees, at 50% FTE or more, in one department/unit for the past 2 years.

Ballots are due by Friday, October 3, 2003. Ballots may be obtained from department administrators or the Directors of Finance and Administration (DFA) web site: <http://www.med.stanford.edu/school/dfa/>. Please send ballots to:

Spirit Award Selection Committee
c/o Human Resources Group
Medical School Office Building
Mail Code 5460

Recipients will be selected and notified at the beginning of November.

Appointments and Promotions

- **John Barry** has been promoted to Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences and Associate Professor, by courtesy, of Neurology and Neurological Sciences, effective 9/1/2003 to 8/31/2008.
- **Donna Bouley** has been promoted to Associate Professor of Comparative Medicine and, by courtesy, of Pathology at the Stanford University Medical Center, effective 9/1/2003 to 8/31/2008.
- **Susan Brundage** has been appointed to Associate Professor of Surgery at the Stanford University Medical Center, effective 9/1/2003 to 8/31/2008.

- **Loretta Chou** has been promoted to Associate Professor of Orthopedic Surgery at the Stanford University Medical Center, effective 9/1/2003 to 8/31/2008.
- **Gregory Enns** has been reappointed to Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at the Lucile Salter Packard Children's Hospital, effective 10/1/2003 to 9/30/2007.
- **David Fiorentino** has been appointed to Assistant Professor of Dermatology at the Stanford University Medical Center, effective 9/1/2003 to 8/31/2006.
- **Michael Fredericson** has been promoted to Associate Professor of Orthopedic Surgery at the Stanford University Medical Center, effective 9/1/2003 to 8/31/2008.
- **Leland Hanowell** has been appointed to Associate Professor of Anesthesia at the Stanford University Medical Center, effective 9/1/2003 to 8/31/2008.
- **Stuart Kim** has been appointed to Professor of Developmental Biology, effective 9/1/2003.
- **David Kingsley** has been appointed to Professor of Developmental Biology, effective 9/1/2003.
- **Amy Ladd** has been promoted to Professor of Orthopedic Surgery at the Stanford University Medical Center and at the Palo Alto Veterans Affairs Health Care System, effective 9/1/2003.
- **Jongsoo Park** has been appointed to Assistant Professor of Neurosurgery at the Stanford University Medical Center and at the Lucile Salter Packard Children's Hospital, effective 9/1/2003 to 8/31/2006.
- **Lawrence Recht** has been appointed to Professor of Neurology and Neurological Sciences and Professor, by courtesy, of Neurosurgery at the Stanford University Medical Center, effective 9/1/2003 to 8/31/2008.
- **Iris Schrijver** has been appointed to Assistant Professor of Pathology and, by courtesy, of Pediatrics at the Stanford University Medical Center, effective 9/1/2003 to 8/31/2006.
- **Sandhya Srinivas** has been reappointed to Assistant Professor of Medicine (Oncology) at the Stanford University Medical Center, effective 9/1/2003 to 8/31/2006.