

Dean's Newsletter

March 6, 2006

Table of Contents

- Tribute to a Stanford Pioneer
- Continuing On
- Thinking Globally
- Commonwealth Club Award for Stem Cell Research
- More From 60 Minutes
- Stanford Receives Major Award for Nanotechnology
- Graduate Student Selection Weekend
- Commission on Graduate Education – Report Available Online
- Asian Pacific American Medical Student Association (APAMSA) Meeting
- Promoting Diversity and Leadership
- Stanford Magazine, Spring Issue
- Call for Nominations
- Awards and Honors
- Appointments and Promotions

Tribute to a Stanford Pioneer

A special memorial service to celebrate the life of Norman Shumway, MD, PhD, who passed away on February 10 at the age of 83, will be held on **Friday, March 17** at Stanford Memorial Church. Services will start at 3 pm, followed by a reception at the Stanford Faculty Club, 439 Lagunita Drive, at 4 pm. Seating is limited, so please arrive early. Free parking will be available at the Stock Farm West parking lot. A shuttle to the church and back will run between 2-6 pm. If you have questions or special needs, please call 234-0621.

As you know, Dr. Shumway was one of the most remarkable figures in American Medicine during the 20th century. He was an incredible visionary, leader and pioneering surgeon. His work transformed cardiothoracic surgery and had a major impact on Stanford Medicine – locally and globally. While he is surely missed, his legacy will continue deep into the future.

Should you wish to make a contribution in his memory, the family asks that you please make a donation to the Stanford Heart and Lung Transplant Patient Care Fund, Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery, 300 Pasteur Drive, Stanford, CA 94304-5407.

Continuing On

You may have noted in the recent issue of the **Stanford Report** (<http://news-service.stanford.edu/news/2006/march1/pizzo-030106>) that President Hennessy and

Provost Etchemendy asked me to serve a second term as dean of the School of Medicine. I am honored to accept their invitation and will do my best to continue serving the School, Medical Center and University.

It is hard for me to imagine that in April I will have been in my role for 5 years. In many ways it has been a time of considerable change and progress, thanks to the efforts and contributions of extraordinary faculty, students and staff. I have been most fortunate to work with a remarkable leadership group in the dean's office, along with exceptional department chairs and senior leaders throughout the School. I am particularly pleased that our Stanford community has drawn more closely together with the common goal of fostering discovery and innovation to improve human health and that we have forged a closer relationship with our colleagues across the University.

I began my tenure as dean at a time when the medical school was just emerging from the challenging merger and de-merger with UCSF – a period of low morale, damaged image and financial difficulty. Fortunately we were able to unite under the banner of *Translating Discoveries* and together redefine and then better align our missions in education, research and patient care. Today we are considerably stronger and healthier – and have a clear sense of mission and purpose.

There is no question that we have many challenges ahead and that some of the progress we have made will be impacted by forces within and outside of the medical center. But I am confident that we can – indeed must – play a leadership role in better defining the future of academic medicine and its value to our community locally and globally. I will do all that I can to help Stanford achieve the greatest success possible and both appreciate and count on your continued support – and especially your creativity, energy and commitment to Stanford Medicine.

And finally, I guess this means that the Dean's Newsletter will continue on – at least for the next 5 years!

Thinking Globally

We are increasingly part of a global community that is being radically transformed by technology, transportation, economics, and of course disease and global health. While Thomas Friedman's widely read "*The World is Flat. A Brief History of the Twenty-First Century*" (Farrar, Straus, Giroux, 2005) illustrates how technology is equalizing the economic playing field for a number of nations, it is also clear that there are widening divisions between technology- wealthy nations and those that remain poor and impoverished. That said, these divides can be crossed and seriously impacted by emerging infections – including the prospect for a global pandemic such as with Influenza H5N1. Preparing for such events is essential – but so too is achieving more harmonious partnerships with global partners.

The recently announced Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies (see <http://fsi.stanford.edu/>) offers a unique opportunity for Stanford to define its role and place on the world stage. To better delineate the role that the School of Medicine should

play in international programs I brought together a group of faculty and students to help define our future directions. This is a work in progress but I want to share some of our interim observations with the hope of getting feedback from you. Among the major working principles are:

- ***Alignment with strategic goals of the School of Medicine.*** While we will continue to foster individual faculty and student international initiatives, it is important that broader efforts be as aligned with the mission of the School of Medicine as possible. Our strategic plan, *Translating Discoveries* defined the mission of the Stanford School of Medicine *to be a premier research-intensive school of medicine that improves health in the 21st century through discoveries, leadership, and innovation in education, biomedical research and patient care.* Accordingly, whatever new initiatives we undertake in the international area should be consistent with our core mission and values – which emphasize discovery and innovation.
- ***Alignment with the Stanford University International Initiative.*** We are in an exciting era of interdisciplinary research with the noteworthy potential of the application of research discoveries to real world problems. Because of its relatively small size and porous inter-departmental and inter-School boundaries, Stanford has the potential to make significant advances in addressing pressing needs on a global scale – including in global health. However, this can only be done if faculty and students across all the schools come together, and accordingly, we are enthusiastic about participating in and fostering alignments across the university.
- ***Focus on basic research and innovation.*** Our great strength lies in innovation and discovery that evolves from basic research. The committee concluded that at least one venue that has the potential to engage international team efforts could be modeled on the exciting Biodesign Program that has been pioneered at Stanford by Dr. Paul Yock, Martha Meier Weiland Professor and Co-Chair of the Department of Bioengineering. As currently delineated, the Biodesign program fosters interdisciplinary teams charged with identifying specific problems and designing solutions to them, and thus might provide a paradigm to anchor new international efforts. Indeed, creating teams that include participants from Stanford and other nations could provide an important linkage between *Translating Discoveries* and improving global health. There could also be alignments with scholars of policy and policy makers that might be very beneficial.
- ***Geographic focus.*** Our working committee also noted that we would have the greatest impact if we focus our efforts geographically. In this regard, we are looking at Asia, specifically at India and China. These areas have enormous need and significant potential for progress through the kind of interdisciplinary, problem-based approach at which Stanford science excels, coupled with the policy expertise that Stanford scholars can bring to bear.

- ***Enhanced and guided student experiences.*** It has been clear for some time that we need to provide greater coordination and oversight of student international experiences. In addition, we want to build on the strong student interest in international medicine so that we can offer them a greater array of opportunities. Again, the Biodesign model might provide one paradigm, but other approaches will also be entertained.
- ***Identification of a leader.*** In order to bring a plan to fruition, we need to identify a senior leader. The “phenotype” of this leader is yet to be determined – i.e., whether we should seek a senior scientist in an area such as infectious diseases or whether this position calls for an individual who has significant experience and accomplishment in the arena of international health policy. The question is: where should the area of deepest knowledge reside – in laboratory science, in the translation of basic science to clinical application, or in the broader world of public health applications and policies? Regardless of how we resolve this question, we will be looking for an individual who can move the agenda forward internally as well as externally. This will include such elements as: mobilizing faculty and student interest within the school, engaging faculty interest in other Stanford schools and at the Freeman Spogli Institute, developing a strategic plan for School international efforts, establishing an office that oversees and enhances student international experiences, leading the efforts to establish new international projects and collaborations, and so forth.

There are exciting opportunities and challenges before us – but clearly they are ones that we should wish to address. Please let me know your ideas. My plan is to move our agenda to a new level in the months ahead.

Commonwealth Club Award for Stem Cell Research

On Wednesday evening March 1st the Commonwealth Club of California presented their 18th Annual Distinguished Citizen Award to institutions and individuals for achievements in life science, biotechnology and stem cell research. Stanford and UCSF were the two institutions that were honored along with Brook Byers, Bob Klein and Bill Bowes. Dr Irv Weissman, Director of the Stanford Institute for Stem Cell Biology and Regenerative Medicine and Virginia & D.K. Ludwig Professor of Pathology accepted the award for Stanford.

In honoring the scientists and leaders in California who have been pioneers in the still nascent field of stem cell research, the Commonwealth Club also offered an important affirmation in support of this important area of investigation, which has, unfortunately, remained unfunded in California due to lawsuits challenging the constitutional right of the State to issue the bonds - despite the approval of nearly 60% of the voters of California in November 2004. Ironically, on the same day of this award ceremony, the trial challenging the right of the state to issue the bonds that voters approved in Proposition 71 was proceeding in the Alameda County Court under the guidance of Judge Sabraw. While a 2-3 week trial was anticipated (the plaintiff indicated

that they would call over 70 witnesses) the actual trial lasted only three days and virtually all reports indicate that the plaintiff's case was quite weak. An opinion piece on this topic by Russell Korobkin, Professor of Law at UCLA and a senior fellow at the UCLA Center for Society and Genetics, which you may find of interest, was published in the March 3rd LA Times (see: <http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/commentary/la-oe-korobkin3mar03,1,7368002.story>).

It is expected that Judge Sabraw will render her decision within the next several weeks. It is also anticipated that if the decision is against the plaintiff they will appeal the decision to a higher court – but hopefully the case will be dismissed or negated on appeal. With that the funds approved by the voters of California will become available.

As you may know, I have been a member of the Independent Citizen's Oversight Committee (ICOC), which has overseen the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine since its inception in November 2004. The ICOC has worked tirelessly on behalf of the State of California to get the systems into place to support high quality stem cell research. In my opinion remarkable progress has been made, and it is a tragedy that at this point we are still unable to carry out the wishes of the voters by funding and supporting stem cell research. I hope that this will soon change and that the important science that can and must be done has the opportunity to proceed.

More From 60 Minutes

Hopefully many of you had the opportunity to see the segment about stem cell research on the 60 Minutes show that aired on Sunday February 26th. Dr. Bobby Robbins, Chair of Cardiothoracic Surgery and Director of the Stanford Cardiovascular Institute, did a terrific job in representing his research and Stanford (see <http://mednews.stanford.edu/stemcell-60min.html> for details).

Unfortunately, because the producers of 60 Minutes decided that they needed to devote more time to the port authority issue, they eliminated the interview they had done with Dr. Irv Weissman – which was most unfortunate. However, they have now posted that interview on their website and if you are interested you can view it at: <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2006/02/23/60minutes/main1341635.shtml>.

Stanford Receives Major Award for Nanotechnology

The National Cancer Institute has awarded Stanford University a \$20,000,000 U54 grant to establish a Center of Cancer Nanotechnology Excellence (CCNE) (http://nano.cancer.gov/funding/nanotech_centers_of_excellence.asp). This grant is an excellent example of team-based science. It involves the Schools of Medicine, Engineering, and H&S as well as investigators from UCLA, Cedars Sinai, Fred Hutchinson, UT Austin, General Electric and Intel. Dr. Sam Gambhir, Director of the Molecular Imaging Program at Stanford (MIPS) (<http://mips.stanford.edu>) and Professor of Radiology and Bioengineering, is the Principal Investigator.

The grant will focus on bringing together *in vitro* diagnostics and *in vivo* molecular imaging to develop strategies to monitor patients undergoing cancer therapy.

The goals are to develop novel strategies based on nanosensors (magneto and nanotube) for looking at early changes in blood proteins after therapy and to develop nanoparticles (e.g., quantum dots) for molecular imaging, also to monitor responses to therapy.

In addition to Sam Gambhir, a number of Stanford investigators are involved in this project, including: Hongji Dai of the Department of Chemistry; Rob Tibshirani of the Departments of Health Research & Policy and of Statistics; Michael Kelly, Bob Sinclair and Robert Wilson of the Department of Materials Science and Engineering; Dean Felsher and P.J. Utz of the Department of Medicine; Garry Nolan of the Departments of Microbiology & Immunology and of Molecular Pharmacology; Xiaoyuan Chen, Samira Guccione, David Paik, Sylvia Plevritis, Jianghong Rao and Meike Schipper of the Department of Radiology, and Ed Myers, Yoshio Nishi and Mary Tang of the Stanford Nanofabrication Facility.

Congratulations to Dr. Gambhir and his collaborators.

Graduate Student Selection Weekend

March 1-5th is the Annual Graduate Student interview and selection weekend for students interested in Stanford's Bioscience programs. These include 12 home programs that are either departmentally based or are interdisciplinary programs – along with programs in biomedical informatics and bioengineering. The 2005-06 Biosciences Brochure which describes these programs can be downloaded from the PhD Program website (see: <http://med.stanford.edu/phd/>).

Based on a review of applications submitted in December, approximately 250 applicants were invited for interviews over this past weekend. From everything I have heard so far, the students who visited Stanford were outstanding. Each of the programs and departments will be finalizing their selections and offers for the 2006 incoming class will be delivered to students early this week. In addition to being outstanding candidates I was also pleased to note the diversity of the individuals who visited Stanford and am hopeful that this next class will be outstanding and diverse.

Commission on Graduate Education -- Report Available Online

The report of the Commission on Graduate Education can now be downloaded from the President's website (<http://www.stanford.edu/dept/president>). Hard copies of the report also may be requested on a limited basis by contacting Miranda Tuttle at mtuttle@stanford.edu (the report will be sent via ID mail).

President John Hennessy formed the commission in 2004 to study possible enhancements to graduate education at Stanford. Drs Julie Parsonnet, Senior Associate Dean for Medical Education and Dr. John Boothroyd, then Senior Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Education, represented the School of Medicine on this effort. The commission presented its report to the Faculty Senate in December 2005 and made a number of recommendations to enhance multidisciplinary opportunities to expand leadership training and break down institutional barriers to encourage collaboration among departments.

President Hennessy announced recently that the university would adopt the commission's recommendation to create the position of vice provost for graduate education to oversee many of the reforms. The university also has approved the development of three new pilot programs for graduate students that incorporate some of the recommendations of the commission.

Asian Pacific American Medical Student Association (APAMSA) Meeting

On Saturday, March 4th the 2006 APAMSA Western Regional Conference that was jointly sponsored by Stanford and UCSF was held in Cole Hall at UCSF with more than 150 medical students from California and beyond in attendance. I was pleased to be invited to provide opening remarks on behalf of Stanford - and to recognize the breadth and depth of the program that had been assembled. The Conference was entitled "Taking Action: Responding to the health needs of the Asian Pacific American Community," and it featured a broad array of topics ranging from social justice and protecting patients to the impact of Hepatitis B and HIV.

Special thanks must go to our Stanford students who helped organize this excellent conference including Emiley Chang (who served as co-chair) along with Organizing Committee Members Rena Patel, Andrew Poon, Kaushik Roy, Ricky Tong and Wei Gu.

Promoting Diversity and Leadership

The first session of the Faculty Fellows Program organized by the School of Medicine's Office of Diversity and Leadership met on Tuesday evening, February 28th in the Faculty Club. Participants had the opportunity to attend sessions dealing with such important practical issues as journal writing and mentoring – and also had the opportunity to get to know each other. One feature of each of these sessions will be a personalized description of the leadership journey of various Stanford faculty and leaders. I had the privilege of giving the first of these sessions.

I again want to thank the leaders of this important effort including Dr. Hannah Valantine, Barbara Miller and Julie Moseley.

Stanford Medicine, Spring Issue

The Spring issue of Stanford Medicine offers a special report on pediatric challenges. Its underlying message is that for many children good health care is the exception, not the rule, despite the extraordinary advances being made in pediatric care.

This print run is the publication's largest in a decade: 65,000. The run's size is due to an additional 50,000 printed for LPCH, which is planning to distribute the issue widely among pediatricians and the media.

Highlights in this issue include:

The lead story discusses the struggle for pediatric health-care funding. It refers to this year's outrageous "Deficit Reduction Act" and describes the tendency for legislation to favor adults vs. kids.

-A piece on the dire straits facing pediatric health workers (and children) in sub-Saharan Africa. Media relations director Ruthann Richter traveled to Kenya and interviewed health-care workers, children and families there.

-A feature on the history of children's hospitals, their importance, and their precarious financial footing. This includes a sidebar on LPCH's origins.

-A "ticktock" of the days leading up to Children's Hospital New Orleans' evacuation in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Two LPCH residents put us in touch with a resident there. He provided a diary of his experiences. The hospital's leaders provide context.

The Stanford Medicine magazine may be viewed online at: <http://mednews.stanford.edu/stanmed/2006spring/> . Hard copy of the issue may be obtained by contacting the Office of Communication and Student Affairs at (650) 723-6911.

Call for Nominations

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2006 Alwin C. Rambar-James B.D. Mark Award for Excellence in Patient Care. Nominations are open to all Stanford physicians, regardless of whether they work at Stanford University Hospital and Clinics, Lucile Packard Children's Hospital, or any other location where a Stanford physician is delivering care. The Award, which is presented at Medical School Commencement, was established in 1984 to recognize and honor a Stanford physician who excels in patient care, exemplified by his or her ability to meld competence with compassion, and who works productively with all members of the health care team. Last year's recipient was Dr. George Fisher.

Please submit your nomination for the 2006 award to Lisa Joo, Medical School Office Building, 251 Campus Drive, Room XC041, Stanford, CA 94305-5460 or by email at lisa.joo@stanford.edu. Nominations are due by April 10, 2006.

Awards and Honors

- The School of Medicine has been awarded the *Diversity Spirit Achievement Award (2006)* from the Diversity Recruiters Network (DRN) for its active support of Diversity in the Community and the Workplace. This is a national awards program that recognizes organizations for their accomplishments and outstanding support of diversity in the workplace and community. The School of Medicine was one of only two Bay Area employers honored in a recent presentation ceremony. Nancy Koski, HRG's Compensation and Employment Specialist, accepted this award on behalf of the School of Medicine. Special thanks to our Department of Human Resources.

- **Dr. Sanjiv “Sam” Gambhir**, Professor of Radiology and Director of the Molecular Imaging Program at Stanford (MIPS), was recently in London where he received the prestigious Hounsfield Medal for his work in Molecular Imaging. This medal is named after Sir Godfrey Hounsfield, who received the Nobel Prize for Medicine in 1979 for his work on developing computer-assisted tomography (CAT scanning). Dr. Gambhir’s research focuses on multimodality molecular imaging with an emphasis on novel strategies for cancer diagnostics and management. Congratulations to Dr. Gambhir for this honor.
- **Dr. Michael Longaker**, the Deane P. and Louise Mitchell Professor has been elected President Elect of the Society of University Surgeons – a wonderful accolade for Dr. Longaker.
- **Dr. Tom Krummel**, the Emile Holman Professor and Chair of the Department of Surgery at SUMC and Susan B. Ford Surgeon-in-Chief at LPCH was elected the Secretary Treasurer of the prestigious Halstead Society. He will serve a 3-year term and then become Vice President, and in 2009-10 he will serve as President. Congratulations to Dr. Krummel.

Appointments and Promotions

- **Subbhas Banerjee** has been reappointed to Assistant Professor of Medicine (Gastroenterology and Hepatology) effective 3/1/06.
- **Stephanie Chan** has been promoted to Clinical Assistant Professor (Affiliated) of Medicine, effective 12/1/2005.
- **Michael Harbour** has been promoted to Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine, effective 3/1/2006.
- **Peter Henry Johannet** has been promoted to Clinical Assistant Professor (Affiliated) of Surgery, effective 5/1/2005.
- **Sanjay Kurani** has been promoted to Clinical Assistant Professor (Affiliated) of Medicine, effective 12/1/2005.
- **Christopher Longhurst** has been promoted to Clinical Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, effective 2/1/2006.
- **Frank Longo** has been appointed to Professor of Neurology and Neurological Sciences, effective 3/1/06.
- **Robert Menard** has been promoted to Clinical Assistant Professor (Affiliated) of Surgery, effective 5/1/2005.

- ***Andrew B. Nevins*** has been promoted to Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine, effective 3/1/2006.
- ***Tom Ormiston*** has been promoted to Clinical Assistant Professor (Affiliated) of Medicine effective 12/1/2005.
- ***Mark A. Singleton*** has been promoted to Adjunct Clinical Professor of Anesthesia effective 2/1/06.
- ***Laszlo Vaszar*** has been promoted to Clinical Assistant Professor (Affiliated) of Medicine, effective 1/1/2006.