

Dean's Newsletter

September 10, 2012

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Dr. Jim Spudich Wins the 2012 Albert Lasker Basic Medical Research Award

This morning the Albert and Mary Lasker Foundation announced that Dr. Jim Spudich, the Douglass M. and Nola Leishman Professor at Stanford, is the winner of the 2012 Albert Lasker Basic Medical Research Award. Dr. Spudich shares this prize with Dr. Ron Vale, the William K. Hamilton Distinguished Professor of Anesthesia and Professor and Chair of Cellular and Molecular Pharmacology at the University of California, San Francisco and Investigator, Howard Hughes Medical Institute, and Dr. Michael Sheetz, the William P Kenan Jr. Professor, Biological Sciences, Columbia University. This incredibly prestigious award recognizes Jim Spudich's seminal contributions to understanding how molecular motors transduce the chemical energy of ATP hydrolysis into mechanical movement in muscle and nonmuscle cells (see: Stanford press release: "[Lasker Award Goes to Biochemist Jim Spudich](#)"). His pioneering work and collaborations have crossed many scientific disciplines and forged interdisciplinary research collaborations by biochemists, structural biologists, physicists, chemists and others.

Dr. Spudich's research elucidates fundamental biological systems and is elegant in its own right but also has implications for treatment of human disease. Indeed, clinical trials are now underway utilizing several drugs that are based on applying his insights about how cells contract to problems like heart failure, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis and aging, to name a few. His work underscores the importance of investing in basic research as a fundamental underpinning for understanding and ultimately improving the human condition.

Equally important, Jim Spudich is not only a great scientist but also a visionary leader. An extension of his research with Steve Chu, now Secretary of the Department of Energy but formerly Professor of Physics at Stanford, led to the seminal thinking for what has now become BioX – which carries on the tradition of interdisciplinary research and education that has characterized Jim Spudich’s own work. Jim is also a wonderful colleague and university citizen, deeply admired by colleagues and students worldwide. It is thrilling to congratulate Jim Spudich, and his colleagues Ron Vale and Michael Sheetz, as winners of the 2012 Albert Lasker Medical Research Award. Jim will officially receive the Lasker Award at a ceremony in New York City on September 21st, where family and friends will join him for this wonderful honor. We will also have a reception to honor Jim Spudich and Ron Vale on Thursday, September 13 at 4 p.m. at the Dean’s Courtyard at the Alway Building.

Dr. Bobby Robbins Will Leave Stanford to Become the President and CEO of the Texas Medical Center

Dr. Robert (Bobby) Robbins has been a major leader at Stanford University School of Medicine, where he has served as both Chair of the Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery and, since 2005, Director of the Stanford Cardiovascular Institute. While we must be proud of the wonderful opportunity he has been given to lead the Texas Medical Center (TMC), Bobby will be deeply missed by our entire community - a sentiment I very much share. According to the Texas Medical Center news release, Bobby was selected from a large pool of potential candidates to lead TMC, which has grown since it was established in 1945 to become the largest medical complex in the world. It is composed of 52 member institutions from Houston to Galveston whose mission is to “improve the health status of people through research, education, patient care and prevention.” Bobby will begin his new role on November 5th.

Ever since he joined Stanford as a resident more than two decades ago, Bobby Robbins' accomplishments have spanned across all our missions - each with notable success. Bobby is a highly regarded cardiac surgeon known worldwide for his expertise in heart transplantation. His accomplishments in research have been outstanding and have attracted major awards from the NIH and the California Institute of Regenerative Medicine. He has led a pioneering transformation in the training of future cardiac surgeons. His leadership has won him wide respect among both clinical and basic science chairs and faculty, and his role in establishing the Cardiovascular Institute at Stanford has created amazing bridges and connections across the Medical Center and University and deep into our community. Bobby’s affection for sports and commitment to them are legendary, and his charismatic personality and people skills are deeply valued and respected. Bobby’s commitment to his family and to his many colleagues and friends has created a rich network that will long be sustained. I have been privileged to count Bobby Robbins as a colleague and leader for nearly a dozen years and have been enriched through his friendship - especially his love of Stanford. We look forward to his future success and leadership in academic medicine and beyond.

The LCME Accreditation Review Is Now Scheduled for October 2013

I want to call to your attention the fact that in October 2013 the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME), the accrediting body for education programs leading to the Doctor of Medicine (MD) degree in the United States and Canada, will hold its official site visit to Stanford. Needless to say, a successful accreditation is critical to the School of Medicine and is among the highest priorities for the School of Medicine over the next year. Preparations for the LCME review often begin years in advance of the official site visit and are significantly intensified by the “institutional self-study” that begins during the year prior to the visit. With that in mind, an orientation meeting for the LCME 2013 Accreditation Review was held on Monday August 27th. Your commitment and dedication throughout this process will ensure our continued excellence and leadership in medical education. As you also know, Dr. Lloyd Minor will succeed me as Dean beginning December 1, 2012, and he will take over the leadership of the LCME Institutional Task Force through the October 2013 review. I will do everything possible to make sure our transition is smooth and successful for our Stanford community.

By way of background, the LCME, which was formed in 1942, includes 19 voting members and is jointly sponsored by the American Medical Association (AMA) and the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC). Members of the LCME include medical professionals, students and lay public members. A central facet of the LCME is the aforementioned self-assessment, which includes significant internal data collection related to various education standards and, importantly, an independent student assessment and analysis. This is also an opportunity for institutional self-reflection and strategic planning about current and future education programs and initiatives. The most recent LCME site visit was in 2005. The official review of that visit was reported to John Hennessy, President of Stanford University, on March 1st 2006; it identified areas of strength as well as areas needing improvement. Overall it was an extremely positive and successful review, but it also raised issues that the medical school leadership has continued to assess and address in the past seven years.

All of the documents, reviews and updates of the previous LCME reviews are now posted on our website (see: <http://med.stanford.edu/lcme/>). There are a number of documents for public viewing but official reports from the LCME (including our past submissions and self study and the LCME report) require a SUNet ID for access and can therefore be viewed by members of the Stanford community. We are sharing these documents to promote transparency and also to do all we can to improve our environment for the continued and future education of students.

As noted, over the 2012-2013 academic year (and already underway), many of our faculty, trainees, staff, and clinical partners will be actively engaged in our institutional self-study. In addition to assuring compliance with the LCME accreditation standards, this is also an important opportunity for members of our diverse community to engage in thoughtful dialogue about our ongoing efforts to improve the quality of our MD educational program. The various committees, their leadership, and milestone timelines are all available on the website (see: <http://med.stanford.edu/lcme/>). Dr. Charles Prober, Senior Associate Dean for Medical Education, is the faculty lead for

these accreditation efforts. If you have any questions, please contact one of the members of our LCME Accreditation Planning Team:

- **Charles Prober** (cprober@stanford.edu) - Faculty Lead, LCME Accreditation
- **Aarti Porwal** (aaporwal@stanford.edu) - Administrative Lead, LCME Accreditation
- **Georgianna Newell** (gnewell@stanford.edu) - LCME Project Assistant

I want to thank our faculty, staff and students who are contributing their time and energy to this important process and to encourage you to review the website and offer any comments or suggestions you think helpful or necessary.

Official Groundbreaking Ceremony for the Lucile Packard Children's Hospital Addition

Although construction has been well underway, the official groundbreaking ceremony for the major expansion to the Lucile Packard Children's Hospital (LPCH) was held on September 5th and 6th, signaling another major milestone for this extraordinary resource for children and families – in our community and worldwide. When it is completed in 2016, the \$1.2 billion addition to LPCH will add 150 new patient rooms along with advanced diagnostic and treatment facilities. It will be among the most advanced state-of-the-art facilities in the world.

Christopher Dawes, President and CEO of LPCH, and John Etchemendy, Provost of Stanford University, presided over the event, at which both parents and children gave voice to the importance of LPCH to the lives of children and families. The partnership that LPCH has with Stanford contributes significantly to its uniqueness, distinction and opportunities for the future.

Children's hospitals have played an extraordinary role in transforming the health of children since they were founded during the Dickensian period in London (the Great Ormond Street Hospital being the first) and in Philadelphia, Boston, and Chicago in the US. Often founded by community members, these institutions have provided a haven for children and have been the font of discovery that has transformed the diagnosis and treatment of virtually every congenital or acquired illness over the past 160 years. The foundations for pediatric surgery, diagnostic testing and the cures for diseases like cancer and organ transplantation had their origins and champions in children's hospitals. They have been the focal point for training pediatric specialists and care providers of every medical and surgical or related disciplines, creating generations of leaders, physician scientists, clinicians, advocates and policy makers.

Over the past 50 years a number of the major independent children's hospitals in the US have become as large and complex as academic medical centers, embracing all the missions of research, education, and patient care. While the benefits have been extraordinary, we are also at a remarkable point in history when future scientific and clinical insights will require interactions and collaborations that extend well beyond traditional disciplinary boundaries. As such, a number of our nation's most prominent children's hospitals run the risk of become too insular and self-contained – a topic I

addressed in a presentation to the American Pediatric Society in April 2012 (see: <http://www.nature.com/pr/journal/v72/n3/full/pr201283a.html>).

This is where the collaboration between LPCH and Stanford become ever more important. As a children's hospital, LPCH is really an island with bridges to the Stanford University Medical Center, including both its basic and its clinical science faculty and community. It also has many bridges to Stanford University that foster opportunities for engaging the social sciences as well as the biosciences and engineering. It has bridges to Stanford's Schools of Education, Law, Business and, importantly the community of Silicon Valley and beyond. As such the alignment of LPCH with Stanford creates a unique children's hospital for the future and creates opportunities that can be transformative for the future of child health and the health of families throughout the life cycle.

Revised and Updated Policies on Conflict of Interest

Policies and regulations regarding compliance, including conflicts of interest, have continued to evolve and emerge over the past two decades and now encompass virtually every mission of our university and medical center. With the recent conflict of interest mandates from the National Institutes of Health, Stanford's policies have been reviewed, renewed and now aggregated under a single website (see: <http://www.stanford.edu/group/coi/index.html>). I encourage you to review the web site to make sure you are aware of any changes that affect your activities.

IOM Report on Healthcare Expenditures

With the conventions now ended, the heated national debate for the presidency in the US will almost surely focus on healthcare from very different perspectives. Regardless of the political debate, the reality is that healthcare costs in the US continue to rise at unsustainable rates and that serious and significant changes and solutions are needed. The Affordable Care Act is a beginning but much more is needed to control costs and to improve healthcare delivery in the US. This week the Institute of Medicine released a report from an expert panel entitled "Best Care at Lower Cost: The Path to Continuously Learning Health Care in America" (see: <http://www.iom.edu/Reports/2012/Best-Care-at-Lower-Cost-The-Path-to-Continuously-Learning-Health-Care-in-America.aspx>).

While there will continue to be many points of view, the IOM report is likely to provoke debate and discussion. Two features of the report are relevant at a high level – both available online. One is a table of what the Committee views as "Characteristics of a Continuously Learning Health Care System" that focuses on:

- **Science and Informatics**
 - Real-time access to knowledge
 - Digital capture of the care experience
- ***Patient-Clinician Relationships***

- Engaged, empowered patients
- **Incentives**
 - Incentives aligned for value
 - Full transparency
- **Culture**
 - Leadership-instilled culture of learning
 - Supportive system competencies

This assessment is coupled with the observation that wasted health care spending can be linked to unnecessary services, excessive administrative costs, fraud, and other problems. The IOM report notes that “the traditional systems for transmitting new knowledge—the ways clinicians are educated, deployed, rewarded, and updated—can no longer keep pace with scientific advances. If unaddressed, the current shortfalls in the performance of the nation's healthcare system will deepen on both quality and cost dimensions, challenging the well-being of Americans now and potentially far into the future.” Based on that observation, the report offers ten recommendations for improving healthcare, including addressing:

Digital Infrastructure: "Improve the capacity to capture clinical, care delivery process and financial data for better care, system improvement and the generation of new knowledge."

Data Utility: "Streamline and revise research regulations to improve care, promote the capture of clinical data and generate knowledge."

Clinical Decision Support: "Accelerate integration of the best clinical knowledge into care decision."

Patient-Centered Care: "Involve patients and families in decisions regarding health and health care, tailored to fit their preferences."

Community Links: "Promote community-clinical partnerships and services aimed at managing and improving health at the community level."

Care Continuity: "Improve care coordination and communication within and across organizations."

Optimized Operations: "Continuously improve health care operations to reduce waste, streamline care delivery and focus on activities that improve patient health."

Financial Incentives: "Structure payment to reward continuous learning and improvement in the provision of best care at lower cost."

Performance Transparency: "Increase transparency on health care system performance."

Broad Leadership: "Expand commitment to the goals of a continuously learning health care system."

While important, this report from the IOM is one of many perspectives on how to address health care in the US – but it is one worth reviewing.

Health Policy Forum Will Feature Dr. Zeke Emmanuel – Friday, September 14

On Friday, September 14th, the Stanford Health Policy Forum will feature a conversation with Dr. Zeke Emmanuel on “The Future of Health Care in America: New Hopes, New Fears.” Dr. Emmanuel is the Vice Provost for Global Initiatives, the Diane VS Levy and Robert M. Levy University Professor and Chair of the Department of Medical Ethics and Health Policy at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Emmanuel also served as the Special Advisor on Health Policy to the Director of the Office of Management and Budget and the National Economic Council in the White House. The conversation will be moderated by Paul Costello, Chief Communications Officer for the School of Medicine, and will be held in Room 130 in the Li Ka Shing Center for Learning and Knowledge from 2:30 – 4:00 pm on Friday, September 14th.

Memorial Service for Dr. Robert Glaser (Dean 1965-1970) - October 8th

On Friday, October 8th a Memorial Service will be held to honor the life and contributions of Dr. Robert Joy Glaser (1918-2012), who served as Dean of the School of Medicine from 1965-1970. The service will begin at 4:00 pm in the Paul and Mildred Berg Hall of the Li Ka Shing Center for Learning and Knowledge. Please feel free to attend.

Counting Down on Dean’s Newsletters

Since arriving at Stanford in 2001 I have shared a “Dean’s Newsletter” on a nearly biweekly schedule as a means of sharing updates and undertakings as well as a way of getting feedback and comments from our Stanford community. It has been an honor to share thoughts and observations about the progress, challenges and opportunities for Stanford Medicine. Quite obviously I am now in the countdown phase with just a couple of issues remaining. This may be a relief to many in our community – but it has been a privilege to share these communications with you.

Upcoming Event

22nd Annual Jonathan King Lectureship: **The Ethics and Practice of Loving Care**

Tuesday, October 2nd

5:30 pm

Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital, Auditorium, 1st floor

This lecture is free and open to the public

Speaker: Ira Byock, MD, is Chair, Palliative Medicine, at the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth, Director of Palliative Medicine, Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, and Professor, the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth in the Departments of Medicine, Anesthesiology, and Community and Family Medicine. Involved in hospice and palliative care since 1978, Dr. Byock has authored numerous articles and several books on the ethics and practice of hospice, palliative and end-of-life care.

Awards and Honors

- **Dr. Anand Veeragu** has been appointed to the 2012-2013 Class of White House Fellows. The White House Fellows Program was created in 1964 by President Lyndon B. Johnson to give promising American leaders “first hand, high-level experience with the workings of the Federal government, and to increase their sense of participation in national affairs.” Selection as a White House Fellow is highly competitive and is a significant honor.

The citation regarding Dr. Veeragu from the White House Fellows Program (see: at www.whitehouse.gov/fellows) notes that Anand Veeragu “is a Neurosurgeon in training at Stanford University SOM. He most recently served as Chief Neurosurgery Resident at the Palo Alto Veterans Affairs Hospital caring for soldiers returning from Afghanistan with traumatic brain and spinal cord injuries. Anand is focused on advancing minimally invasive diagnostic and surgical techniques for diseases of the central nervous system. In 2006, Anand developed a novel radiotherapeutic to treat Glioblastoma Multiforme, a malignant brain tumor. He has published over 50 peer-reviewed scientific manuscripts and has written for the Huffington Post. In 2011 Anand staffed the CURE Neurosurgical Hospital in Uganda and organized medical relief missions for the Tsunami of 2004. Anand has received over 30 awards for his leadership, research and promotion of healthcare access to underserved populations. In 2012 Anand received the Gold Foundation's Humanism and Excellence in Teaching Award for his commitment to mentorship.

Anand’s research employs national databases to evaluate trends in health resource utilization to provide guidelines for policy reform. Anand has been accepted to the Stanford GSB MBA program, received his M.D. from Stanford University and graduated with honors from Johns Hopkins University with a B.S in Biomedical Engineering and minor in Multicultural and Regional Studies.” Please join me in congratulating Dr. Veeragu.

Appointments and Promotions

Janelle Aby has been reappointed to Clinical Associate Professor of Pediatrics, effective 10/1/2012

Arash Anoshiravani has been promoted to Clinical Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, effective 9/1/2012

Nawal Atwan has been promoted to Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine, effective 8/16/2012

Michael J. Bresler has been reappointed to Clinical Professor of Surgery, effective 9/1/2012

Sangetta Chona has been reappointed to Clinical Assistant Professor of Surgery, effective 9/1/2012

Rebecca E. Claure has been promoted to Clinical Associate Professor of Anesthesia, effective 9/1/2012

Glenn Cockerham has been reappointed to Clinical Associate Professor (Affiliated) of Pathology and of Ophthalmology, effective 3/1/2012

Beth Darnall has been appointed to Clinical Associate Professor of Anesthesia, effective 10/1/2012

Glen R. Elliott has been reappointed to Clinical Professor (Affiliated) of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, effective 9/1/2012

Jordan Firestone has been promoted to Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine, effective 9/1/2012

Deborah Franzon has been promoted to Clinical Associate Professor of Pediatrics, effective 11/1/2012

Norman W. Gross has been appointed to Clinical Assistant Professor (Affiliated) of Medicine, effective 9/1/2012

Terri Haddix has been promoted to Clinical Associate Professor of Pathology, effective 9/1/2012

Parag Kale has been appointed to Clinical Assistant Professor (Affiliated) of Medicine, effective 3/1/2012

Amid Keshavarzi has been promoted to Clinical Assistant Professor (Affiliated) of Surgery, effective 9/1/2012

Edward Klofas has been reappointed to Clinical Associate Professor of Surgery, effective 9/1/2012

Justin M. Ko has been appointed as Clinical Assistant Professor of Dermatology, effective 9/1/2012

Bernice Y. Kwong has been appointed as Clinical Assistant Professor of Dermatology, effective 9/1/2012

Joel Levis has been promoted to Clinical Assistant Professor (Affiliated) of Surgery, effective 9/1/2012

Lauren S. Maeda has been appointed as Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine, effective 9/1/2012

Morvarid Moayeri has been appointed to Clinical Assistant Professor of Pathology, effective 9/16/2012

Pramela Ramachandran has been promoted to Clinical Associate Professor of Pediatrics, effective 9/1/2012

S. Goney Sandhu has been appointed to Clinical Assistant Professor (Affiliated) of Surgery, effective 6/1/2012

Sen, Subhro – has been reappointed to Clinical Assistant Professor of Surgery, effective 9/1/2012

George S. Sternbach has been reappointed to Clinical Professor of Surgery, effective 9/1/2012

John M. Stevenson has been reappointed to Clinical Assistant Professor (Affiliated) of Surgery, effective 9/1/2012

Anne Elizabeth Stuart has been promoted to Clinical Professor of Pediatrics, effective 9/1/2012

Volney Van Dalsem has been promoted to Clinical Professor of Radiology, effective 9/1/2012

Mytilee P. Vemuri has been reappointed to Clinical Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, effective 8/1/2012

David Wang has been promoted to Clinical Assistant Professor of Radiology, effective 9/1/2012

Ellen Y. Wang has been promoted to Clinical Assistant Professor of Anesthesia, effective 9/1/2012

Martin K. Wong has been reappointed to Clinical Associate Professor (Affiliated) of Obstetrics and Gynecology, effective 9/1/2012

Tonia E. Wroolie has been promoted to Clinical Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, effective 9/1/2012

Laraine Zappert has been reappointed to Clinical Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, effective 5/1/2012