

# The Dean's Newsletter: April 1, 2002

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Sad News Regarding  
Dr. Kenneth Melmon

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## One Year - Already

It is, at least for me, hard to believe that tomorrow, April 2nd, is the beginning of my second year as Dean of the School of Medicine. In some ways, it continues to feel like I have only just arrived. At the same time, so much has taken place during the past twelve months. Perhaps most importantly, we have worked together to affirm the mission of our school for the 21st Century and have developed an impressive array of strategic initiatives that will, when fully implemented, shape the future of Stanford Medicine for many years to come. The blueprints of our Strategic Plan are being finalized and our future course in education, research, and patient care are being charted. Although the time ahead is full of challenges, we have the opportunity to make special contributions that will help redefine the future of academic medicine.

It is important to acknowledge that whatever success and progress we have made during the past year resides with the efforts of the many faculty leaders, students, staff and volunteers who have worked so hard on behalf of the School. This was not only evident during the Strategic Planning process, but remains so, virtually every day, in so many different ways. I would especially like to thank the members of our Dean's Office, particularly our Senior Associate Deans as well as Department Chairs, Faculty Senate Members, Student Leaders and the exceptional staff who have worked so hard on behalf of the School and University. Coupled with the outstanding contributions being made in basic and clinical research, in teaching and in the delivery of superlative patient care, it is no surprise that Stanford is such a wonderful place.

I also want to thank you for being so welcoming and let you know how much I look forward to continuing to work with you for the future of Stanford Medicine in the years ahead.

## Arrival of Martha Marsh, new SHC President and CEO

I am very pleased to note that April 2nd is also the starting date for [Ms. Martha Marsh](#), the new President and Chief Executive Officer for Stanford Hospital & Clinics (SHC). We have been eagerly anticipating the arrival of a permanent CEO for SHC since late last spring. The arrival of Ms. Marsh, who was selected through a national search, is an important milestone. We all look forward to working closely with Ms Marsh who, together with the CEO of Packard Children's Hospital and the Dean, will form the leadership group for the Medical Center.

In announcing Ms. Marsh's arrival, it is also worthy of comment that the financial reports from both SHC and LPCH are considerably better than a year ago. Indeed, LPCH is operating well ahead of budget and is currently on track to have a slight positive operating margin, which is great news. SHC is ahead of budget, and although a loss of operations is still forecast, it appears better than anticipated, hopefully, the budget will achieve break-even during the fourth quarter of this year. Obviously this progress is a tribute to the Hospital staff and administration as well as the faculty.

While there are many challenges ahead, the financial performance of both hospitals is better than a year ago and the arrival of a new CEO offers much promise for an ever more successful future.

## Match Day Successes

I want to extend my congratulations and best wishes, once again, to our Stanford Medical students who received their Match results on Thursday, March 21st. This annual ritual, which is filled with expectation and anxiety for students and program directors, is announced at the same moment nation wide. At 9am PST, students received, in random order, an envelope containing the name of the training program to which they had matched. As in past years, Stanford students did very well in the Match, with more than 90% receiving one of their top three choices. The 2002 Match List can be downloaded from [here](#):

## [2002 Match List](#)

This year's Match reflected some national trends. As reported by the AAMC, a number of primary care areas, including internal medicine, family medicine and pediatrics, received fewer applicants this year than in the past. This largely reflects the perception and reality that positions in primary care are increasingly difficult to find at the completion of training. Of note, the number of students seeking training in general surgery also continues to decline, perhaps reflecting perceptions about the work challenges of a residency in surgery. Naturally these issues will need attention in order to sustain the competitiveness and desirability of these training programs.

The news at Stanford was outstanding for both students and residency programs. The top five areas, which comprised 68% of those chosen, included Internal Medicine (25%), General Surgery and Surgical Specialties (16%), Pediatrics (10%), Radiology

(9%) and Dermatology (8%). The remaining areas matched by our students included Anesthesia, Emergency Medicine, Family Medicine, Neurology, Pathology, Psychiatry, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. Although our students will seek residencies in numerous programs, nearly a third will remain at Stanford programs with the next largest contingent, (~16%) joining Harvard-affiliated programs in Boston.

Again, congratulations to all of our students. Next step is graduation!

### **Stanford Medical Student Gift Challenge**

At the Match Day Dinner Celebration, the class of 2002 presented a gift representing contributions from more than 80% of the graduating students. Achieving this number triggers matching from an alumnae contribution - which is wonderful for the Class, Alumni and the School. The Committee that spearheaded this effort included Lyn Aborn, Eunice Mata, Joel Mata, Amy Markezich, Melissa Minor, Ward Myers, Sarah Schmidt, Clement Yeh and Heidi Witherell. This year's graduating students elected a Cornerstone gift for our new Learning and Information Center.

We are all very appreciative to the Class of 2002 for their many contributions to Stanford, including this wonderful Cornerstone gift.

### **Strategic Planning Update**

Work on all parts of the Strategic Plan continues. Throughout this important process I want to keep you informed and engaged and to enlist your support and suggestions. David O'Brien, Director of our new Institutional Planning Office has been working with colleagues in MedIT to establish a Strategic Planning Web site. An early version is now available (<http://medstrategicplan.stanford.edu>) which contains all the strategic initiatives as well as the presentations that were delivered at the February 8-10th Retreat. This site will be updated to include new information and progress reports as they evolve and will also serve as a site for you to register suggestions and input. Again, the success of our programs depends on your involvement so please stay engaged.

### **Mark Hlatky Reappointed as Chair of the Department of Health Research and Policy**

I am very pleased to inform you that Dr. Mark Hlatky, Professor of Health Research and Policy and of Medicine (CV Medicine), has agreed to serve an additional term as Chair of the Department of HRP for the period September 1, 2001 to August 31, 2004. Dr. Hlatky joined Stanford in 1989 and was promoted to Professor in 1996. His scholarly interests are outcomes research and how therapy--especially in cardiovascular medicine--affects survival, functional status, cost and cost-effectiveness. Dr. Hlatky is one of the leaders of the Donald W. Reynolds Cardiovascular Clinical Research Center, which was established in 2000 with a grant from the Reynolds Foundation to identify genetic variations that contribute to the development of coronary atherosclerosis and myocardial infarction. I am delighted that he will continue to serve HRP, the School and the University in this important leadership position.

### Tribute to Dr. Mert Bernfield

On Monday night, March 25th, Dr. Mert Bernfield died in Boston at age 63 from pneumonia following a more than five-year battle with Parkinson's disease. Faculty at two universities, and colleagues and friends worldwide, mourns his death.

Dr. Bernfield had an enormously distinguished and celebrated career at Stanford as an educator, researcher, clinician and leader. He served as the second Director of the Human Biology Program, which he led with great success. In 1989 the Bernfields left Stanford for Boston. Mert joined Harvard Medical School as the Clement Smith Professor of Pediatrics and Cell Biology and Director of the Joint Program in Neonatology at the Children's Hospital, Boston. I had the pleasure of interacting with Dr. Bernfield when I returned to Boston in 1996 but also had the sadness of noting the deterioration of his health. Despite his illness, he continued to work and make important contributions to science and medicine. Among his many enduring accomplishments is the impact he had on many young physicians and colleagues - a legacy that will surely continue to be felt in the decades that follow.

### Appointments and Promotions

I am pleased to announce the following appointments and promotions.

**William Talbot** has been promoted to Associate Professor of Developmental Biology, effective 4/1/02.

**Bertha Chen** has been reappointed Assistant Professor of Gynecology and Obstetrics at the Stanford University Medical Center.

**Joseph DiCarlo** has been reappointed Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at the Lucile Salter Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford.

**Eric A. Weiss** has been reappointed Assistant Professor of Surgery (Emergency Medicine) at the Stanford University Medical Center.

**Vinit Wellis** has been reappointed Assistant Professor of Anesthesia at the Stanford University Medical Center.

Congratulations!