

Dean's Newsletter

March 8, 2010

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Dr. Laura Roberts Named Next Chair of Psychiatry

I am very pleased to announce that Dr. Laura Roberts will join Stanford in September 2010 as the next Chair of Psychiatry, succeeding Dr. Alan Schatzberg, who has served as Chair since July 1991. During Dr. Schatzberg's 19-year tenure, the department has grown in size, scope and depth and is widely recognized as one of the very best academic departments of psychiatry in the nation. We owe a deep debt of gratitude to Dr. Schatzberg for his leadership. We learned from virtually every prospective candidate that their interest in Stanford was related to the excellence of the University and School and to the fact that the department has such outstanding faculty, students and trainees. The Search Committee, which was chaired by Dr. Heidi Feldman, the Ballinger-Swindells Professor of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics, did a spectacular job in indentifying an outstanding group of leaders, many of whom are sitting department chairs, as candidates for this important position.

Dr. Roberts is currently the Charles E. Kubly Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine and Chair of the Department of Psychiatry at the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW), a position she has held since 2003. She received her undergraduate, Masters and MD degree from the University of Chicago. She trained in Clinical Medical Ethics at the University of Chicago and the pursued training in psychiatry at the University of New Mexico, including a Fellowship in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. She rose rapidly through the academic ranks at the University of New Mexico, where she became Professor of Psychiatry and Director of the Institute for Ethics before moving to MCW.

Dr. Roberts is highly respected by her basic and clinical science colleagues at MCW as well as by leaders in psychiatry across the nation. She has received numerous awards including being named Distinguished Life Fellow by the Association for Academic Psychiatry and the Distinguished Psychiatrist Award from the American Psychiatric Association. She is a Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association, the

American Society of Psychosomatic Medicine and the American Psychopathological Association. She has also held numerous leadership positions in national and international organizations along with significant leadership roles in academia. Her research has focused on the intersections of ethics, mental illness, education and training and research. She is the author of 117 peer-reviewed publications and numerous book chapters and reviews and the editor or co-editor of 8 books.

The Search Committee, as part of its work, identified a number of important attributes for the Chair of Psychiatry at Stanford, including evidence of effective leadership, commitment to clinical vision, high quality respected research, commitment to teaching and mentoring, a clear and inspiring vision for the future of psychiatry and strong interpersonal skills. I am pleased to say that the finalists the Committee identified excelled in many of these criteria, and Dr. Roberts was viewed as clearly superior in her leadership and interpersonal skills, among many other outstanding attributes. I have had the opportunity to interact with her in numerous settings over the past several months and have sought and received evaluations and opinions from national leaders as well as members of the Stanford community. These were outstanding and made her choice as the Chair an exciting prospect. I am extremely pleased that she has now accepted our offer and will be joining Stanford in September. She will be accompanied to Stanford by her family, including five children.

In addition to again thanking Dr. Schatzberg for his outstanding contributions as a faculty member and Department Chair, I also want to thank Dr. Heidi Feldman for her excellent work as the chair of the Search Committee. She was joined by Linda Boxer, MD, PhD, Professor, Department of Medicine, Chief, Division of Hematology; Michele Calos, PhD, Professor, Department of Genetics; Nancy Fischbein, MD, Associate Professor, Department of Radiology; Chantal Forfota, Medical Student; Stephen Galli, MD, Professor and Chair, Department of Pathology; Rona Giffard, MD, PhD, Professor and Vice-Chair of Research, Department of Anesthesia; Ian Gotlib, PhD, Professor, Department of Psychology, Senior Associate Dean of the Social Sciences, School of Humanities & Sciences; Al Lane, MD, Professor and Chair, Department of Dermatology; Nancy Lee, Vice President, Clinical Operations, SHC; Frank Longo, MD, PhD, Professor and Chair, Department of Neurology & Neurological Sciences; James McCaughey, Chief Strategy Officer, LPCH; Lorene Nelson, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Health Research and Policy, Chief, Division of Epidemiology; Mary Ann Norfleet, MD, Emeritus (Clinical) Professor, Dept of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences; Carla Shatz, PhD, Professor, Department of Biology and of Neurobiology, Director, Bio-X Program; Marcia Stefanick, PhD, Professor (Research), Department of Medicine and Gary Steinberg, MD, PhD, Professor and Chair, Department of Neurosurgery, Director, Institute for Neuroinnovation and Translational Neurosciences.

Finally I want to thank Ms. Kendra Baldwin for the exceptional work she has done in staffing our leadership searches and for the tremendous support we receive from the Office of Institutional Planning. As I have often stated, what makes institutions great is the quality of the individuals who join them. We are so very fortunate to have such a

great community of excellence in psychiatry, and I am thrilled to welcome Dr. Laura Roberts to be the next leader of this important department.

Students Thank Donors for Their Financial Support

On Wednesday evening, March 3rd we hosted our annual Medical Education Donor Appreciation Dinner. This annual event celebrates the incredible contributions our donor community has made to support the Med Scholars and financial aid programs for Stanford Medical Students. Thanks to the remarkable efforts of our donors Stanford students graduate with the lowest amount of debt of any medical school in the USA – whether private or public. The financial aid our students receive enables them to pursue their ambitions and dreams in ways that are much less encumbered by the financial constraints that impact students in virtually every other school of medicine. Currently 9% of our \$1.676 million endowment and 2% of our \$473.6 million expendable reserves are used to support financial aid for medical and graduate students. It likely goes without saying that the current endowment funds are down by 26.4% compared to 2008, prior to the economic meltdown.

What makes the Donor Appreciation Dinner so special is that students receiving financial aid join donors for the dinner discussion. This brings face to face, often in a highly personal way, the donors and the students who are directly benefiting from their contributions.. Their shared stories and interactions help each to understand the impact of the funding being given or received. It's a powerful fusion of commitment, interests and gratitude.

While each donor and every student has a compelling personal story, we have the tradition of sharing more publicly a few individual journeys. This year Dr. Charles Prober, Senior Associate Dean for Medical Student Education, led a panel discussion that included four students: Krishnan Subrahmanian, SMS 2, Luis Gutierrez, SMS 3, Elsie Gyang, SMS 4, Juno Obedin-Maliver, SMS 5. They each come from very different backgrounds and life experiences but share in common their incredible accomplishments and the fact that, for each of them, the financial aid they are receiving has enabled them to attend Stanford and pursue their dreams.

Graduate Admissions Interview Week

March 4-6 was Graduate Student Interview Weekend. Each year our thirteen Bioscience PhD graduate programs, which are shared between the Schools of Medicine and Humanities & Sciences, invite the top ranked graduate student applicants to Stanford to interview with one or more departments and to meet and interact with students and faculty. This year 291 students (out of the 1,556 applicants) visited campus to explore their opportunities at Stanford and, of course, to be interviewed by the faculty before the final selections are made.. We are extremely fortunate to have outstanding PhD students in the Bioscience Programs, and, in speaking with various department chairs and program directors. I was very pleased to hear that they felt this year's candidates were quite

spectacular. Invitations for admission will be sent shortly and final selections made by March 12.

New Center for Cancer Systems Biology

Sylvia Plevritis, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Radiology, was informed this past week that she will lead one of the National Cancer Institute's eleven new Centers for Cancer Systems Biology. The theme of Dr. Plevritis proposal is "Modeling the Role of Differentiation in Cancer Progression." In the press release announcing Stanford University's new center, Dan Gallahan, program director for the Integrative Cancer Biology Program commented, "These centers represent a unique multidisciplinary union of outstanding scientists and clinicians who will work to unravel the complexities of cancer through the novel application of technology and mathematical modeling. Their discoveries and models will be critical to our continued success in understanding and treating this disease". This is terrific news for Stanford and the faculty who contributed to this important proposal. Please join me in congratulating Dr. Plevritis and her team for this wonderful success.

***Stanford Medicine* Focuses on Issues in Child Health**

Stanford Medicine, the Medical School's major institutional publication, has won award after award for its excellence in covering major themes in science and medicine. The Spring 2010 issue of *Stanford Medicine* has just been released and explores important challenges impacting child health. Rosanne Spector, editor of *Stanford Medicine*, joined forces with colleagues at the Lucile Packard Children's Hospital to put together this latest issue which is accessible on-line at: stanmed.stanford.edu/2010spring/

Our Office of Communication and Public Affairs has done a powerful job in helping Stanford to play a leading role among academic medical centers in reporting and covering major issues in the biosciences. Thanks to all who contributed to this issue of *Stanford Medicine*, which continues this record of accomplishment in such an excellent way.

Awards for Continuing Medical Education

I have written frequently about the significant concerns for conflicts of interest resulting from directed support from industry for continuing medical education. These concerns led to our Stanford University School of Medicine Policy on Commercial Support for Continuing Medical Education (CME) that went into effect in October 2008 and which was revised in July 2009 (see: http://cme.stanford.edu/documents/Comm_Support_7.09.pdf). Importantly, our policies did not eliminate all industry support for CME but restricted it to funding through the Office of CME and not through departmental or course specific programs.

In January 2010 Dr. Rob Jackler, Associate Dean for CME and Professor and Chair of Otolaryngology, was the recipient of a \$3 million gift from Pfizer to “design and implement a novel curriculum that uses a variety of advanced technologies and teaching methods, including simulated and immersive learning tools” (see: <http://med.stanford.edu/ism/2010/january/cme.html>). Importantly, the Pfizer gift came with no strings or conditions and the company is not involved in the selection of the projects to receive funding. Dr. Jackler has informed me that the Selection Committee has now determined the projects that will receive support during this first year of funding. They include the following:

- Training Physicians to Become Better Communicators: A Study on the Implementation of a Skill-Based Communication Curriculum. *Sanjeev Dutta, Department of Surgery*
- Heart Failure Readmission Metric Based Quality Improvement. *Michael B. Fowler, Paul Wang, Department of Medicine*
- Surgical Quality, Best Practice and Innovation. *Paul M. Maggio, James Lau, Jeffrey A. Norton, Department of Surgery*
- Reengaging Practicing Physicians in the Diagnostic Utility of the Physical Examination. *Abraham Verghese, Department of Medicine*
- Stanford Center for Simulated and Immersed Learning. *David Gaba, Department of Anesthesia*
- Stanford Professional Development, Kelly Skeff, Department of Medicine
- Improving the care of atopic dermatitis by pediatric primary care providers. *Anna L. Bruckner, Department of Otolaryngology*
- An Evidence-Based PI-CME Program to Enhance Cultural And Linguistic Competence Among Practicing Physicians. *Clarence H. Braddock III, Department of Medicine*
- Evaluation and Management of Childhood Obesity. *Thomas N. Robinson, Department of Pediatrics*
- Stanford Palliation Education Network Competency based Communication Training and Evaluation (SPCCTE). *VJ Periyakoil, Department of Medicine*
- Outcomes-based Continuing Medical Education at CAPE. *Lou Halamek, Department of Pediatrics*
- A Study of Simulation for Training Perioperative and Procedural Patient Safety. *Sanjeev Dutta, Department of Surgery*

- A hands on primer to upper extremity problems. *Catherine Curtin, Jeff Yao, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery*

The 2010 Faculty Fellows Program

One of our most successful opportunities for leadership development and community building is the Faculty Fellows Program that was initiated by Dr. Hannah Valentine, Senior Associate Dean for Diversity and Leadership (see: <http://med.stanford.edu/diversity/leaders/fellows.html>). I noted in the January 25th Newsletter the 2009 graduates of the program. On February 22nd I had the opportunity to meet with the 2010 Faculty Fellows for one of their first “leadership journey presentations.” I am thrilled to see another group entering into this program. As in the previous iterations of the program, the Faculty Fellows will interact with each other and in small groups with their assigned mentor. I note below this year’s Mentors and the Faculty Fellows who are assigned to each:

- Dr. Chirsty Sandborg (Mentor), Professor of Pediatrics and Chief of Staff, Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital:
 - Faculty Fellows
 - Dr. Emilie Cheung, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery
 - Dr. Maarten Lansberg, Department of Neurology
 - Dr. Amin Al-Ahmad, Department of Medicine
 - Dr. Jason, Lee, Department of Surgery
- Dr. Phil Lavori (Mentor): Professor and Chair, Health Research & Policy
 - Faculty Fellows
 - Dr. Anna Penn, Department of Pediatrics
 - Dr. Hayley Gans, Department of Pediatrics
 - Dr. Robert Dodd, Department of Neurosurgery
 - Dr. Matthew Strehlow, Department of Surgery
- Dr. Heidi Feldman (Mentor), Professor Pediatrics
 - Faculty Fellows
 - Dr. Merritt Maduke, Department of Molecular and Cellular Physiology
 - Dr. Chris Longhurst, Department of Pediatrics
 - Dr. Alan Cheng, Department of Otolaryngology
 - Dr. Lu Tian, Department of Health Research and Policy
- Dr. David Stevenson (Mentor), Vice Dean and Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Professor of Pediatrics
 - Faculty Fellows
 - Dr. Neeraja Kambham, Department of Pathology
 - Dr. Eliza Chakravarty, Department of Medicine
 - Dr. Karen Parker, Department of Psychiatry
 - Dr. Jonathan Kim, Department of Ophthalmology

Congratulations to the 2010 Faculty Fellows and special thanks to this years mentors and, of course, to Dr. Valentine and the Office of Diversity and Leadership.

Upcoming Events: Stanley Cohen Lecture

Lecture: Stanford Geneticist Stanley N. Cohen

Wednesday, March 10

7:30 pm

Cubberley Auditorium (<http://www.stanford.edu/dept/HPS/CubberleyDirections.html>)

Sponsored by the Continuing Studies Program and the Historical Society

Free; open to the general public, with no registration required

Dr. Cohen co-invented the technique of DNA cloning that allowed genes to be transplanted between different biological species and then propagated in their recombined state. This accomplishment earned Dr. Cohen a National Medal of Science, a National Medal of Technology, and membership in the National Inventors Hall of Fame.

Please join us to learn about Stan Cohen's life and his chance encounter with Herb Boyer that launched a research project so important it resulted in creation of an entire new industry. Hear him talk about the international controversy caused by their discovery that led to a new way of life scientists interacting with the public, the press, legislators, and industry. Learn about his views on the future of biotechnology and new directions his research is taking him.

The evening will begin with a presentation by Dr. Lucy Shapiro, Stanford Professor of Cancer Research, about the scientific contributions of Dr. Cohen and their significance for the world. Then Dr. Cohen will be interviewed on stage, followed by a question and answer session with the audience. This is your chance to engage with one of the most consequential scientists of our time.

Three New Paul and Daisy Soros Fellowships for New Americans

The Paul and Daisy Soros Fellowships for New Americans have been awarded to 30 "creative and accomplished young immigrants or children of immigrants" in the 2010 competition. The 2010 Fellows were selected from 890 applicants from 297 undergraduate and 140 graduate institutions. I am proud to let you know that three Stanford Medical Students are among the 30 new fellows. Each two-year award provides cash grants of up to \$50,000 and tuition support of up to \$40,000. The three Stanford Medical School winning a Paul & Daisy Fellowship for 2010 are:

- ***Abdul Rasheed Alabi*** (SMS3), born in Pittsburgh, did his undergraduate work at Knox College. His family resides in Ilorin, Kwara State of Nigeria.
- ***Shah Ali*** (SMS2), born in Pakistan and whose family resides in Jersey City, NJ. He was an undergraduate at Rutgers University.
- ***Bowen Jian*** (SMS1) was born in China and was an undergraduate at Stanford. His family lives in Gaithersburg, Maryland.

These three new Soros Fellows join the 31 others awarded to Stanford Medical Students since this program began. Notably, Stanford has the second highest number of Soros Fellows (34) to Harvard at 54.

Please join me in congratulating our three new Soros Fellows and in thanking the Foundation for this wonderful support.

Awards and Honors

- Stanford's Medical School's SCOPE blog has just won **Best New Medical Weblog of 2009** awarded by Medgadget. Edited by the school's staff writers, SCOPE (<http://scopeblog.stanford.edu/>) covers medical news with a slightly academic angle, laced with a bit of opinion from a savvy group. Congratulations to the writers!
- *Dr. Natalie Rasgon*, Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences will be receiving the Lila A. Wallis Award from American Medical Women's Association.

Appointments and Promotions

Susan Anderson has been promoted to Adjunct Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine effective 9/01/09.

Peter Chiu has been promoted to Adjunct Clinical Professor of Medicine, effective 9/01/09.

David Karpf has been promoted to Adjunct Clinical Professor of Medicine, effective 9/01/09.

R. Elaine Lambert has been promoted to Adjunct Clinical Professor of Medicine, effective 9/01/09.