

# DEAN'S LETTER FOR TUFTS MEDICINE

## \$20M grant will foster bench-to-bedside research

Tufts University and Tufts Medical Center have won a \$20 million federal grant to streamline the process of turning laboratory research discoveries into real-world treatments for patients. The Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) will provide funds over five years for the new Tufts Clinical and Translational Science Institute.

With the institute as a resource, researchers from the School of Medicine and across the university will work with health-care organizations, community groups and medical companies to translate scientific breakthroughs into widely used drugs, therapies and good clinical practices.

Tufts was one of 14 academic health-care organizations in 11 states to receive CTSAAs in May. In 2012, when the program is fully implemented, approximately 60 CTSAAs will be included in the project, with an annual budget of \$500 million.

**Harry P. Selker**, M.D., a cardiologist who serves as principal investigator for the Tufts CTSA Institute, describes this as a visionary direction for the NIH. Although the NIH contributes about \$30 billion a year to biomedical research in the United States, "there's not much that seems to come out of it for the public's benefit, and Congress feels that way, too," he says.

"We're now part of a consortium nationally which really will transform clinical research and translational research from bench to bedside," says Selker, a professor of medicine who directs the Sackler School's clinical research program.

The Tufts institute has also partnered with eight other Tufts-affiliated hospitals, two health plans, a score of community and academic organizations (from the Framingham Heart Study to the Boston Museum of Science) and a handful of private-sector companies, including Pfizer Inc. and Millennium Pharmaceuticals.

"We've now joined a true vanguard of institutions that will transform research in the United States," says medical school Dean **Michael Rosenblatt**, M.D.

## Moving news

When are we moving? Is the library open? Can I see the plans?

With construction of the new student center in the Sackler Center and the clinical skills and medical simulation centers at 35 Kneeland Street under way, students, faculty and staff might be asking these very questions. "The Big Move," a website dedicated to the construction and the attendant logistics, has all the answers. Found on the School of Medicine's homepage under the "Announcements" section of the "News" tab, the site (<http://www.tufts.edu/med/news/thebigmove>) includes moving schedules, packing tips, FAQs and even a way to submit your own questions and comments.

Slated for completion in spring 2009, the projects will transform medical education and the quality of life at the School of Medicine. Melding state-of-the-art educational facilities and enhancements to student life, such as an expanded café and fitness center, the renovation is funded by a \$15 million contribution from the Jaharis Family Foundation.

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### HERE & THERE

**Lewis M. Cohen**, M.D., clinical professor of psychiatry at Baystate Medical Center, has received two prestigious awards. Cohen is one of 190 artists, scientists and scholars selected from more than 2,600 applicants to receive a Guggenheim Fellowship. He also has been selected for the Bellagio Residency Program, which offers influential scholars the chance to collaborate with each other while in residence at an Italian estate. Cohen plans to take a six-month sabbatical to make use of his prizes and complete his book, *No Good Deed: Allegations of Murder in the Medical Community*.

The Arthritis Foundation has awarded **Don L. Goldenberg**, M.D., chief of rheumatology at Newton-Wellesley Hospital and director of its Arthritis/Fibromyalgia Center, the Dr. Marion Ropes Award for Excellence in Arthritis Care and Leadership. The award, named for a pioneering rheumatologist who was also the first female medical resident at Massachusetts General Hospital, recognizes an honoree who has dedicated his or her career to helping families affected by arthritis. Goldenberg, a professor of medicine who has been a member of the Newton-Wellesley staff since 1988, is an internationally recognized expert on fibromyalgia.

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## KOMAN GRANT

**Amy Yee**, Ph.D., a professor of biochemistry at the School of Medicine and a professor at the Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy, and **Teeru Bihani**, Ph.D., a postdoctoral associate in biochemistry, were awarded a grant from the Koman Breast Cancer Research Foundation to investigate the mechanisms that underlie invasive breast cancer. The three-year, \$180,000 grant will fund the mentored training of Bihani in basic and clinical sciences. Fewer than 5 percent of applicants are granted this prestigious award. In addition to Yee, **David E. Wazer**, M.D., professor and chair of radiation oncology, and **Rachel J. Buchsbaum**, M.D., assistant professor of medicine, will mentor Bihani during postdoctoral training.

## ONLINE EDUCATION

An article about the Tufts OpenCourseWare initiative was published in the international journal *Medical Teacher*. Associate Provost **Mary Y. Lee**, M.D., and her colleagues, **Susan Albright**, executive director of TUSK (Tufts University Sciences Knowledgebase); **Dawn Geronimo Terkla**, Ph.D., executive director of institutional research; and **Nancy Wilson**, M.B.A., director and associate dean of the Tisch College of Citizenship and Public Service at Tufts, collaborated on the article, "Expanding the Reach of Health Sciences Education and Empowering Others: The OpenCourseWare Initiative at Tufts University," which appears in Volume 30, Issue 2 of the journal and is available online at <http://tinyurl.com/5mktln>. More information on Tufts OpenCourseWare can be found at <http://ocw.tufts.edu>.

## Alums honored for distinguished service

Two alumni of the School of Medicine were honored with Distinguished Service Awards, the highest honor of the Tufts University Alumni Association. At a ceremony on April 12, **Lawrence K. Altman**, M.D., M62, and **John C. Richmond**, M.D., M76, were among the seven Jumbos to receive citations this year.

Altman has served as a medical journalist for the *New York Times* since 1969. His reportage includes a series on AIDS in Africa, which won the prestigious George Polk Award in 1986. He is a clinical professor in the department of medicine at New York University Medical School and a member of the Institute of Medicine.

An orthopedic surgeon who has performed more than 5,000 ACL and rotator cuff reconstruction surgeries, Richmond was the head team physician for Tufts Athletics for 26 years and now serves as a consultant to the Athletics Department. He is a professor of orthopedic surgery at the School of Medicine, teaches large animal surgery at the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine and is an adjunct professor of biomedical engineering at Tufts School of Engineering. He also chairs the orthopedic surgery department at New England Baptist Hospital.

## It's a match

On March 20, the 175 members of the Class of 2008 learned where they will spend their years of residency training. Match Day, as it is known, is conducted by the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP), and more than 15,000 U.S. medical seniors participated nationwide.

In keeping with recent trends both at Tufts and nationally, almost half of the class will train to become primary-care physicians; a quarter of the class will pursue internal medicine. Eighteen percent of Tufts medical students will train as surgeons. Emergency medicine, anesthesiology and pediatrics were other popular specialties. Three percent of the class will enter military residencies.

As in previous years, more than quarter of the class will remain in Massachusetts, with New York and California drawing the lion's share of the graduating students. With more than 94 percent of students nationwide being matched with their top choices, the NRMP considers this year's Match Day the most successful in 30 years.

## FEEDBACK

The *Dean's Letter for Tufts Medicine* is published eight times a year by the Office of the Dean of Tufts University School of Medicine. We welcome comments and story ideas. Contact Editor Jacqueline Mitchell at [jacqueline.mitchell@tufts.edu](mailto:jacqueline.mitchell@tufts.edu) or 617.636.3602.

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