

for TUFTS MEDICINE

Biomedical research space will undergo \$10 million renovation

Capitalizing on the School of Medicine's rising status as a top-notch research institution, the university will invest \$10 million to renovate laboratory space on the Boston campus, Dean **Michael Rosenblatt**, M.D., announced at a town meeting for the medical and Sackler school communities on April 6. The meeting was a chance for the dean to share "wonderful news" about the school as well as seek input on "the challenges we are facing."

The \$10 million investment, which Rosenblatt called "a real vote of confidence," will fund the completion of the four remaining floors in the South Cove Building, construction on the fifth floor of the Jaharis Center and infrastructure renovations that will ready four floors in the Arnold Building for new lab space.

Rosenblatt highlighted research funding obtained by Tufts faculty over the past year, including a \$5 million award from the Gates Foundation for a team led by **Abraham "Linc" Sonenshein**, Ph.D., in collaboration with researchers at the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine to develop vaccines for childhood diseases in developing nations; a \$1.5 million grant from the W.M. Keck Foundation to purchase instruments to identify and analyze pathogenic proteins; and a \$125,000 award from NIH to **Jeffrey K. Griffiths**, M.D., M.P.H., to develop a university-wide global health curriculum. "These are signs we've reached a certain level in our science, and I think that will help us get other grants," he said.

The dean also noted that the school will need to implement measures to address a budget deficit—largely a result of a decline in federal research dollars and the sharp rise in energy prices. Despite the challenges, Rosenblatt said he remains optimistic about the school's future. "There are always swings in the [funding] pendulum. It will swing back, and we want to be able to take advantage of the next time it swings up."

Alumnus awarded Dean's Medal

Donald E. Wilson, M.D., M.A.C.P., M62, received the Dean's Medal on April 20 in recognition of his dedication to diversity in medicine, education and active citizenship as well as his outstanding reputation as a physician.

A gastroenterologist, Wilson has served as dean of the University of Maryland School of Medicine since 1991. He has expanded the school's research program and overseen the construction of a new facility to support research in infectious diseases, HIV/AIDS and mental illness. He has appointed women and minorities to key leadership positions and is a founding member of the Association of Academic Minority Physicians. Wilson maintains strong ties to Tufts as a member of the Medical Alumni Association and as an overseer to the School of Medicine.

HERE & THERE

Alice Bendix Gottlieb, M.D., Ph.D., chair of dermatology and dermatologist-in-chief at Tufts-New England Medical Center, will receive the Honorary Fellowship Award from the American College of Clinical Pharmacology in September. Her current research includes the study of apoptosis and inflammation-related protein and gene expression in patients responding to novel psoriasis treatments.

Diana W. Bianchi, M.D., the Natalie V. Zucker Professor of Pediatrics, has been elected president of the International Society of Prenatal Diagnosis, an organization that includes obstetricians, medical geneticists, pediatricians and clinical laboratory personnel from 46 countries who perform prenatal diagnosis or who do research in this area. Her four-year term begins in September. Bianchi also is vice chair for research in the Department of Pediatrics at the Floating Hospital for Children and Tufts-NEMC.

Harry P. Selker, M.D., M.S.P.H., professor of medicine, is the recipient of the John M. Eisenberg Award for Career Achievement in Research from the Society of General Internal Medicine (SGIM). The award recognizes a senior SGIM member whose innovative research has changed patient care, medical research or medical education. Selker, who directs the clinical research program at the Sackler School, developed instruments that provide emergency physicians with real-time predictions of cardiac patients' outcomes.

IN THE HALL

Claire Moore, Ph.D., professor of molecular biology and microbiology, is among the eight individuals inducted into Tufts' Hall of Diversity this year in recognition of their work in promoting diversity at Tufts. In 1990, Moore launched the Summer Research Program for Minority Undergraduates, which she directed until 2003. She remains an advisor to the program and is also a liaison for the health sciences campus to select and place students in the Tufts Summer Scholars Program and a Tufts recruiter at minority conferences.

CARING PHYSICIANS

Mary Y. Lee, M.D., dean for educational affairs and associate provost; **Kristin L. Dardano**, M.D., assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology at Baystate Medical Center; and **Deeb N. Saleem**, M.D., professor and chair of medicine, are part of a team of Boston-area medical school educators awarded a planning grant from the American Medical Association to evaluate how physicians acquire and maintain the skills essential to delivering quality patient care. The team comprises faculty from the medical schools at Tufts, the University of Massachusetts, Harvard and Boston University.

LEADING THE WAY

Justin Ko, M08, was among 55 medical students, residents, fellows and young physicians to receive the American Medical Association (AMA) Foundation's 2006 Leadership Awards for outstanding leadership in advocacy, community service and/or education. President of Tufts' AMA and Massachusetts Medical Society chapters, Ko is working to establish a business and management in medicine curriculum at Tufts.

Matched to internal medicine

In keeping with national trends, the largest group of the School of Medicine's Class of 2006—just over 20 percent—will train in internal medicine. The 176 members of the class learned where they will do their residencies at National Match Day on March 16.

More than 15,000 U.S. medical students participated in the annual match. Pediatrics and general surgery were the next popular choices among Tufts students. Two Tufts graduates will go into otolaryngology, a choice offered for the first time this year.

Renewing ties with Saudi Arabia

The School of Medicine renewed its connection with the Dhahran Health Center in Saudi Arabia when three faculty members traveled there in March to lead a three-day seminar on geriatrics. Although there had been a long history of educational changes between the two institutions, these efforts essentially dried up following the 9/11 tragedy.

David Fairchild, M.D., M.P.H., associate professor of medicine and chief of general medicine at Tufts-NEMC; **Richard Dupee**, M.D., associate clinical professor of medicine and chief of geriatrics at Tufts-NEMC; and **Lyle Bohlman**, M.D., reviewed all aspects of clinical geriatrics.

The trip was a result of a visit to Tufts several months earlier by Dr. Hisham Sallout, chief of health care professional education at the Dhahran Health Center. He met with **Adel Abu-Moustafa**, M.D., dean of international affairs at the medical school, to invite Tufts faculty to visit Saudi Arabia as part of his hospital's ongoing continuing education program.

Innovator in medical education

Baystate Medical Center's Internal Medicine Residency Program will receive an Educational Innovation Program grant from the American Council of Graduate Medical Education for innovations in postgraduate education in internal medicine. Baystate plans to develop comprehensive curricula in quality, patient safety, health-care delivery in multidisciplinary team models and medical informatics. **Kevin Hinchey**, M.D., assistant professor of medicine and director of the residency program, led the team that prepared the grant proposal.

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 or 617.636.3602.

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