

DEAN'S LETTER FOR TUFTS MEDICINE

SEPTEMBER 2006

Meet the Class of 2010

Selected from more than 8,500 applicants, the 171 members of the Tufts University School of Medicine Class of 2010 matriculated on August 21. The entering class of 96 men and 75 women has a mean total GPA of 3.61 and a mean science GPA of 3.56.

Among the new students—who hail largely from the Northeast and California—are 29 graduates of Tufts University. Brown University, Boston College and the University of Massachusetts are also well represented in the entering class.

A master's in biomedical science

Students looking to become stronger applicants to medical school will have just such an opportunity at Tufts, starting in 2007.

The Academic Affairs Committee unanimously approved a proposal to offer a master's degree in biomedical science. Under the auspices of the Public Health and Professional Degree Programs, this 12-month program will cover the same biomedical material as the first-year of medical school. Participants may opt to take a second year of coursework to obtain a master's degree in public health.

Designed to be the best of its kind, the new master's program will be supplemented by innovative teaching techniques such as computer-based learning and video streaming—techniques that eventually could be offered to medical students as well. The Tufts University Board of Trustees has approved the new degree program, and the first class will enroll in August 2007.

A new dean

Janet Hafler, Ed.D., has been appointed dean for educational development in the Office of Educational Affairs. Hafler had been at Harvard Medical School for the past 17 years, most recently as director for faculty development and associate professor of pediatrics.

At Harvard, she ran an active research program, applying qualitative research methods to medical education. Hafler will bring her extensive expertise to many areas of curriculum development, evaluation and scholarship as the medical school develops and implements its educational and strategic plans. The main focus of her work will be on faculty development throughout the school's programs, including admissions, problem-based learning, standardized patient care and clinical teaching.

HERE & THERE

Ralph Aarons, M.D., Ph.D., assistant professor of pediatrics, has been appointed course director of the Problem-Based Learning (PBL) Program. Aarons, who succeeds **Luisa Fertitta**, M.S., R.N.C., has been actively involved in the school's educational program since he began serving as a PBL facilitator in 1998. He also is a member of one of three Educational Strategic Planning working groups. In his new role, he will broaden faculty participation in PBL mentoring activities and will guide PBL's transition into the school's new curriculum. Aarons is a neonatologist at Caritas St. Elizabeth's Medical Center where he also has served as associate chief of the Division of Newborn Medicine and director of the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

Kristen H. Goodell, M.D., a third-year resident in Tufts' Family Medicine Residency Program, has been elected the national resident representative to the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine Board of Directors. She received her medical degree from Columbia University and did a residency in general surgery at Tufts-New England Medical Center. After two years, she decided her true calling was to be a family physician.

ATKINS CHAIR

Andrew S. Greenberg, M.D., whose research focuses on obesity and its complications, has been named to the newly endowed Dr. Robert C. and Veronica Atkins Professorship in Metabolism and Nutrition at Tufts School of Medicine. Greenberg also directs the Obesity and Metabolism Laboratory at the Jean Mayer USDA Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging at Tufts.

The chair was established with a \$2 million gift from the Dr. Robert C. Atkins Foundation to support research into the role of metabolism and nutrition in managing obesity and type 2 diabetes. Tufts is among a select group of academic medical centers receiving awards from the Atkins Foundation, which was established with a \$40 million gift following Atkins' death in 2003.

RUSSO GRANTS

Claire Moore, Ph.D., and **Carol Kumamoto, Ph.D.**, both faculty members in molecular biology and microbiology, are the recipients of this year's Russo Grants, established by the Russo Family Foundation Charitable Trust to support cutting-edge research at the medical school and its affiliated hospitals. Moore and Kumamoto have developed a high throughput screen to examine 100,000 chemicals for compounds that block mRNA function in yeast but not in mammal cells. These compounds serve as the basis for developing new anti-fungal drugs for immuno-compromised individuals such as transplant patients or those with AIDS or cancer.

Retreat scheduled on new curriculum

Educational strategic planning has moved into its next major phase. With the school aiming to launch a revised curriculum in the fall of 2008 with the Class of 2012, the three working groups helping to transform the initial vision of the school's strategic plan into the innovative new curriculum will present preliminary ideas for discussion and feedback at a daylong retreat on Monday, November 20, at the Babson Executive Conference Center in Wellesley, Mass.

It is important to have every major department, discipline and affiliate represented. However, space is limited, with preference given to course and clerkship directors, department chairs, Curriculum Committee members, core collaborators and ESP Working Group members. All interested faculty should RSVP to Jeanine Chisholm at jeanine.chisholm@tufts.edu as soon as possible.

Joint-degree program in pain management

Tufts University School of Medicine now offers a joint-degree program in pain management.

Tufts' Master of Science in Pain Research, Education and Policy (MS-PREP) is now available to students in the Master of Acupuncture (MAC) or Master of Acupuncture in Oriental Medicine (MAOM) programs at the New England School of Acupuncture.

The Tufts degree—conferred solely as a Tufts degree—is intended to give students studying acupuncture the opportunity to gain a scientific understanding of pain and its treatment.

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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