

*for* TUFTS MEDICINE

## Medical school earns high marks during LCME accreditation visit

**Dean Michael Rosenblatt, M.D.**, would like to thank the Tufts School of Medicine community for an outstanding Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) self-study process that resulted in an equally outstanding site visit and laudatory review.

The LCME is the nationally recognized accrediting authority for medical education programs leading to the M.D. in U.S. and Canadian medical schools. The LCME is sponsored by the Association of American Medical Colleges and the American Medical Association.

The LCME site visit team cited many strengths of Tufts School of Medicine, including the strong working relationships between the school's leadership and the CEOs at its affiliated hospitals; the high level of collegiality evident throughout the school; the support faculty and students receive; and the students themselves, who are ardent advocates for the school.

Overall, LCME team members were impressed with the level of teamwork, commitment and dedication to excellence that they witnessed throughout the medical school, Rosenblatt said. The official LCME accreditation recommendations and report will be finalized after the LCME board meets in June, when the Tufts site visit report will be presented for review and vote.

## Research symposium is March 31

The Tufts Community Research Symposium, a presentation of community research partnerships, will be held on Friday, March 31, from 8:30 a.m. to noon in the Rabb Room of the Lincoln-Filene Center on Tufts' Medford/Somerville campus.

Sponsored by the Tufts Community Research Center and the University College of Citizenship and Public Service, the symposium will feature poster presentations and talks by Tufts faculty and others on topics, including "The Healthy Public Housing Initiative" and "Future Directions for Community Research at Tufts."

**Jamshed Bharucha, Ph.D.**, Tufts provost and senior vice president, will make opening remarks, followed by presentations by researchers from the Jean Mayer USDA Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging, the School of Medicine and community groups, including the Committee for Boston Public Housing and the Somerville Transportation Equity Project. For more information, contact **Douglas Brugge, Ph.D.**, associate professor of public health and family medicine, at [dbrugge@aol.com](mailto:dbrugge@aol.com).

### HERE & THERE

**Klemens Meyer, M.D.**, associate professor of medicine, has been named an outstanding physician in nephrology by the National Kidney Foundation for his extraordinary commitment to patient care and the treatment of chronic kidney disease. Meyer directs Tufts-New England Medical Center's Dialysis Center, where he is active in the chronic kidney disease and transplant programs, and is also on staff at Emerson Hospital. He has a particular interest in improving patient care and was the first to use quality-of-life measures as a clinical tool in dialysis. Meyer has worked to raise awareness of kidney disease and hypertension in Boston's Asian-American community.

**Bruce Morgan**, the editor of *Tufts Medicine*, the alumni magazine of the School of Medicine and the Sackler School of Graduate Biomedical Sciences, has received an Award of Excellence from the Association of American Medical Colleges/Group on Institutional Advancement (AAMC/GIA) for his profile of **Gloria White-Hammond, M76**, a pediatrician who has helped purchase the freedom of more than 10,000 slaves in the Sudan. The profile, which was the cover story in the summer 2004 issue of the magazine, was judged the best non-science feature produced by a U.S. medical school in 2004. This is Morgan's third Award of Excellence from the AAMC/GIA. He received the award for the *Tufts Medicine* cover stories "Jail Time" (non-science, 2000) and "When the Heart Stops Cold" (science, 2003).

## CLINICAL EXCELLENCE

Three Tufts-affiliated hospitals were among five Massachusetts hospitals to receive a Distinguished Hospital for Clinical Excellence Award from HealthGrades, an independent health-care ratings company. The Lahey Clinic, Newton-Wellesley Hospital and the North Shore Medical Center ranked among the top 5 percent of hospitals in the nation in terms of the lowest mortality and complication rates for 26 procedures and diagnoses.

## MENTOR HOSPITAL

Thanks to its success in treating heart attack patients and preventing infection at surgical sites, Baystate Medical Center has earned the "mentor" designation from the Institute for Health Care Improvement's 100,000 Lives Campaign. Baystate was one of 27 hospitals selected from a pool of about 3,000 facilities nationwide. A nonprofit organization, the Institute for Health Care Improvement works with hospitals to improve quality of care and reduce medical errors. The institute believes that implementing a few proven interventions on a wide scale could avert nearly 100,000 hospital deaths every 18 months.

## BEST OF BOSTON

Congratulations to the more than 500 alumni, faculty and affiliated physicians who were recognized as "2006 Top Doctors" by *Boston* magazine. "All of us at the School of Medicine applaud your accomplishment. It is your commitment and dedication to medicine and patient care on which the strong legacy of the Tufts medical community is built," Dean Michael Rosenblatt said.

## Town meeting

The School of Medicine and Sackler School communities are invited to join Dean Michael Rosenblatt for a town meeting on Thursday, April 6, from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. in Behrakis Auditorium at the Jaharis Center.

This will be an open forum in which you will hear news about the medical and Sackler schools and an update on the strategic plan. It will be an opportunity for you to ask questions, express your viewpoints and offer feedback. No RSVP is necessary.

## Volcanoes pose public health threat

Surrounded by more than 30 active volcanoes, residents of Quito, Ecuador, are at risk for serious health problems from toxic chemicals in volcanic ash and fumes, coupled with entrapping topology and unregulated motor vehicle emissions, according to a Tufts study.

**Elena N. Naumova**, Ph.D., M.S., associate professor of public health and family medicine, attended the fourth conference of Cities on Volcanoes in Quito, Ecuador, where she presented the research, "Emergency Room Visits for Respiratory Conditions Increased after Pichincha Volcanic Eruptions in Quito." The study was done by a team of investigators from the School of Medicine, including Naumova, **Jeffery Griffiths**, M.D., M.P.H., associate professor of public health and family medicine, **Gauri Khurana**, a fourth-year medical student, and **Jyotsna Jagai**, M.P.H., a data analyst in public health and family medicine, and from the Medical School of Quito-Ecuador.

The work is funded by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and the Fogarty International Center.

The research demonstrates the potential of using ER records to monitor health effects of air pollution associated with volcanic activity. The Tufts study links elevated rates of respiratory infections and asthma-related conditions in children in Quito, to eruptions of the Guagua Pichincha volcano 24 miles outside of Quito. Pediatric ER visits doubled following eruptions, and the largest impact was observed in children under age 5.

## 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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