

DEAN'S LETTER FOR TUFTS MEDICINE

A Campus Transformed

If you haven't walked along Harrison Avenue recently you might not recognize the former garment factories that were turned into a lab complex for the medical school in the early 1950s. The M&V and Stearns buildings are undergoing complete facelifts, centered on the installation of large energy-efficient windows. The first floor of Stearns has been renovated to house the Department of Family Medicine, the growing M.S. in Biomedical Sciences and Public Health degree programs and student study rooms and lounges. A glassed-in, sidewalk-level entry to Stearns will showcase an inviting lobby.

In addition to the physical changes, the buildings are also getting a new name: the Biomedical Research and Public Health Building, which is more appropriate for the activities housed there.

Farther down Harrison Avenue, a former parking lot now sprouts an expanse of green lawn, flower beds and places to recreate and relax. Located next door to the popular outdoor Jaharis café, the new green space is designed to serve as a venue for special occasions, including the mid-August cookouts marking the arrival of students. Enhancements to the Posner Hall auditorium include a new glass wall that provides a view out into the courtyard and insulates the building from summer's heat and winter's chill. New accessible bathrooms have been installed, and auditorium seating has been expanded to accommodate the new class of 200 students.

At the Sackler Center, workers have just about finished the project to transform the building into the new Medical Education and Health Sciences Center. The final phase includes a fitness center, computer-supported classrooms, a conference center and a new lobby. Faculty, alumni, students and staff are invited to celebrate the official reopening of Sackler on October 22. For more information, contact Kara Brassil at kara.brassil@tufts.edu or 617.636.6594, or register online at <http://medical.alumni.tufts.edu>.

Check Out These Websites

The Sackler School of Graduate Biomedical Sciences has launched its new website (sackler.tufts.edu). The site showcases faculty and students, research and events in an organized, informative and entertaining way. The "Faces of Sackler" feature offers playful profiles of the people of Sackler, and a streamlined calendar filters events by day, week or month and includes academic deadlines and a map of each event's location. The site also contains a searchable faculty directory, rotating news stories, multimedia elements and Quick Links, a menu customized for every page on the site.

The Tufts Clinical and Translational Science Institute (Tufts CTSI) also has a new online presence. Established in August 2008 with a grant from the National Institutes of Health, Tufts CTSI promotes collaborative, cross-disciplinary research with the goal of improving the public's health. Encompassing all the schools of Tufts University, its affiliated hospitals in Massachusetts and Maine, participating universities, community organizations and nonprofit and for-profit organizations, Tufts CTSI offers education, research expertise and financial support. For more information, visit: www.tuftsctsi.org.

AUGUST 2009

JAHARIS CHAIR

Randy Wertheimer, M.D., chief of family medicine at the Cambridge Health Alliance, has been appointed to the Jaharis Family Chair in Family Medicine. She will continue to serve as chair of family medicine at Cambridge Health, where she oversees the Tufts University Family Medicine Residency Program. A 1977 graduate of Boston University School of Medicine, Wertheimer was the principal investigator for a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant to expand access to care in central Massachusetts.

SUMMER RESEARCH

From mapping mouse brains to monitoring animal behavior, eight undergraduates from Tufts and other schools spent the summer conducting original research in the department of neuroscience, thanks to a prestigious award from the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS). Investigators **Philip G. Haydon, Ph.D.**, professor and chair of neuroscience, and **Michele H. Jacob, Ph.D.**, **F. Rob Jackson, Ph.D.**, and **Stephen J. Moss, Ph.D.**, all professors of neuroscience, received the grant as part of an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act initiative to support summer research experiences for undergraduates through August 2010. The undergraduates worked on research ranging from mapping a transgenic mouse brain to collecting baseline data on animal behavioral tests for the Tufts Center for Neuroscience Research. They presented their findings at a symposium at the end of the 12-week program.

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HERE & THERE

Brendan P. Kelly, M.D., assistant professor of medicine and associate director of the medicine/pediatrics residency program at Baystate Medical Center, is one of three recipients of a new professionalism fellowship from the Alpha Omega Alpha (AOA) Medical Honor Society. AOA created the fellowship this year to recognize the importance of professionalism in the practice of medicine. With his \$12,500 award, Kelly will develop programs for teaching professionalism to residents in all specialties.

Michelle Long, M.D., and **David Munson, M.D.**, both M09, have been selected as 2009 Massachusetts Medical Society Scholars. They are among eight fourth-year students, two from each of the state's four medical schools, who demonstrated excellent academic performance, community involvement and financial need. Each honoree receives a \$10,000 scholarship. Both have been active with the Sharewood Project, and Munson became clinic coordinator in 2006. Long intends to pursue a career in academic internal medicine with a focus on underserved populations. Munson plans a career in primary care, with a focus on HIV medicine or infectious disease.

Johanna Seddon, M.D., a professor of ophthalmology at the School of Medicine and an adjunct professor at the Friedman School, was named a distinguished Gold Fellow by the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology. She is among the first group of members recognized for their accomplishments, leadership and contributions to the association. She discovered the relationship between nutrition and age-related macular degeneration, the leading cause of blindness, and has discovered four new genetic variants associated with this increasing cause of vision loss.

Residents Recognized for Teaching Excellence

Five Tufts medical residents are the recipients of the Arnold P. Gold Foundation's 2009 Humanism and Excellence in Teaching Awards for their compassion and commitment to educating the next generation of physicians. The awards were presented by Dean of Student Affairs **Amy Kuhlik, M.D.**, during the Student Clinicians Ceremony in July.

The awardees, chosen by the third-year Tufts medical students they teach, are **Elizabeth Baker, M.D.**, M07, a second-year resident in obstetrics and gynecology at Tufts Medical Center; **Justin Lee, M.D.**, M08, a second-year resident in surgery at Caritas St. Elizabeth's Medical Center; **Philip Omotosho, M.D.**, who completed his surgical residency at Baystate Medical Center in June; **Amandeep Salhotra, M.D.**, M.B.A, a third-year resident in medicine at Caritas St. Elizabeth's Medical Center; and **Celeste Sharplin, M.D.**, a second-year resident in family medicine at the Cambridge Health Alliance. They received a certificate, a gold lapel pin and a check for \$250 from the Gold Foundation.

MD/MBA Retooled

Ten members of the Class of 2013 began working toward their degrees in June—two months before classes started at Tufts Medical School. The students are the first to enroll in the new four-year MD/MBA joint-degree program offered by the School of Medicine and Brandeis University's Heller School for Social Policy and Management. It is the latest iteration of the combined-degree program Tufts offered for more than a decade in partnership with the Heller School and Northeastern University College of Business Administration.

The change will allow Tufts medical students to earn an accredited MBA, says **John Ludden, M.D.**, program director. In the past, the MBA was not accredited because Tufts does not have a business school, and so it was designated as an MBA in health management.

Students will take the bulk of their MBA courses next summer, after their first year of medical school.

For more information about the combined degree program, go to www.tufts.edu/med/education/combinedmd/mdmba/index.html.

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.

www.tufts.edu/med/deansletter