

DEAN'S LETTER FOR TUFTS MEDICINE

High-tech simulation training comes to Boston and Baystate

Fourth-year students no longer have to travel to other medical schools to take their OSCEs (Objective Structured Clinical Examinations). On July 10, the test was offered for the first time on the Boston campus—in Tufts Medical School's brand new Clinical Skills and Simulation Center. Located on the third floor of 35 Kneeland Street, the 9,000-square-foot facility contains 12 patient exam rooms, three simulation rooms, observation rooms, conference rooms, a classroom, offices and a kitchen/gathering area for standardized patients.

All exam and simulation rooms are outfitted with video and audio equipment so faculty can observe students interacting with standardized patients from observation rooms equipped with computer monitors. The standardized patient sessions are taped and can be viewed later by students and faculty. A faculty committee is developing a four-year curriculum for the Simulation Center. Using computerized mannequins and task trainers, students will refine their clinical and physical diagnosis skills, practice commonly performed procedures and learn how to care for acutely ill patients as part of a team. The grand opening of the Clinical Skills and Simulation Center will take place in October.

Baystate Medical Center, the medical school's western campus in Springfield, Mass., opened its new \$2 million Simulation Center and Goldberg Surgical Skills Lab on July 22. The 4,000-square-foot space provides advanced simulation training for faculty, residents, fellows, students and nurses. Three simulation rooms house a variety of advanced adult, pediatric and infant patient simulators as well as virtual reality surgical training tools.

Biomedical sciences program graduates first class

Twenty-three members of the first class of the M.S. in Biomedical Sciences program will complete their degrees this month. Twelve of them have already earned spots in medical schools for the class of 2012 this fall; six were accepted to the Tufts M.D. program, and another to Tufts' M.D./MBA in health management program. The remaining students will continue their master's studies at Tufts for a second year, working on either a laboratory or library-based research thesis or a combined M.S./M.P.H. degree.

Designed specifically for students aiming to become stronger applicants to medical school or who want to pursue other biomedical careers, the new master's program mirrors many of the courses taken by Tufts' first-year medical students, while providing individualized instruction and allocating time for MCAT preparation. The program is directed by **Alvar W. Gustafson**, Ph.D., associate professor of anatomy. **Vivian Stephens-Hicks**, M.P.H., is the program manager, and **John A. Blust** is the program and scheduling coordinator. To date, more than 400 applications have been received for the 2009–10 M.S. class, compared to 250 at this time last year. Learn more about the program at www.tufts.edu/med/education/mbs.

AUGUST 2008

HERE & THERE

The Anaerobe Society of the Americas has presented **Sherwood L. Gorbach**, M.D., professor of public health and family medicine, with a Lifetime Achievement Award for his contributions to the study of anaerobic microbiology. Gorbach was one of the lead authors of a seminal paper that first identified *Clostridium difficile* as the cause of antibiotic-associated pseudomembranous colitis.

Maribel Rios, Ph.D., an assistant professor of neuroscience, has received a \$400,000 Klarman Family Foundation grant to support her research on eating disorders over the next two years. Her work seeks to elucidate how deficient levels of brain-derived neurotrophic factor contribute to the onset of eating disorders. Rios will collaborate with **Emmanuel Pothos**, Ph.D., an assistant professor of pharmacology at Tufts.

Scott Shikora, M.D., professor of surgery at the School of Medicine and director of Tufts Medical Center's obesity consult center, has been named president of the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery.

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YOUNG INVESTIGATOR

The American Society for Microbiology (ASM) has honored **Ekaterina Heldwein**, Ph.D., with the 2008 Interscience Conference on Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy Young Investigator Award. The award recognizes early-career scientists for excellence in research in microbiology and infectious diseases. Heldwein, an assistant professor of molecular biology and microbiology at the School of Medicine, researches the herpes simplex virus and cytomegalovirus. By studying the mechanisms by which these two viral pathogens enter and infect cells, Heldwein may shed light on the susceptibility and treatment of HIV/AIDS. In 2007, Heldwein was named a Pew Scholar and this year received the prestigious NIH Director's New Innovator Award and the Zucker Center Award. For more on her work, visit www.tufts.edu/med/news/magazine/heldwein.html.

BEST HOSPITALS

Tufts' teaching hospitals earned mentions in *U.S. News & World Report's* annual "America's Best Hospitals" issue. The Lahey Clinic ranked 22nd in urology; Tufts Medical Center placed 40th for treatment of kidney disease. Maine Medical Center's gynecology department and Baystate's endocrinology department also earned mentions. Lahey and Newton-Wellesley Hospital received Gold Sustained Performance Awards for their Get With the Guidelines modules for treating stroke; Faulkner Hospital and Tufts Medical Center earned Silver Performance Awards for their efforts in implementing those American Stroke Association guidelines. Newton-Wellesley also received a Silver for its modules for treating heart failure.

Lactation space created for new moms

Mothers of newborns now have a comfortable, private nursing area on the Boston campus to express and store milk for their babies, thanks to the generosity of a longtime friend of Tufts. **Natalie V. Zucker**, widow of **Milton O. Zucker**, M30, gave \$50,000 to the dean of the Sackler School of Graduate Biomedical Sciences, **Naomi Rosenberg**, Ph.D., to support women's initiatives at the school.

The room, located in the M&V Building in the department of molecular biology and microbiology, has been available for the past six months. Renovations, including comfortable furniture, soft lighting, a privacy curtain, a washing station for equipment and milk storage facilities, are under way.

The Zuckers, who have been loyal supporters of the medical school since 1985, created the first faculty research prize that recognized women scientists on the medical campus. After her husband's death in 1995, Natalie Zucker focused her philanthropy primarily on opportunities to support women in medicine. "She's really had a great impact," says Rosenberg. "Her gifts don't just send a message to women faculty, they send a message to all women who come here."

A tribute to Joe Perry

The School of Medicine has dedicated a conference room in memory of **Joseph B. Perry**, longtime director of information technology at the school, who died in February after a courageous battle with cancer. He was 44.

Perry worked at Tufts for more than 20 years and played a key role in planning, developing and managing information technology at the school. The Joseph B. Perry Conference Room is in the new OIT/TUSK space in the M&V Building.

At Perry's request, a scholarship has been established in his honor at Matignon High School, the parochial school from which he graduated. Donations in his memory may be made to Matignon High School (write "Perry Scholarship" on your check memo line) and sent to Attn: Scholarships, Matignon High School, 1 Matignon Ave., Cambridge, MA 02140.

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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