

# DEAN'S LETTER FOR TUFTS MEDICINE

## New 'learning communities' welcome the Class of 2012

The 178 students in the Class of 2012 have begun their medical school careers. The 97 men and 81 women collectively boast a mean total GPA of 3.6. Thirty-nine students attended Tufts University as undergraduates. Other feeder schools include Brandeis University and Boston College. While most of the class is enrolled in the traditional M.D. program, 32 students opted for the M.D./M.P.H., M.D./M.B.A. in health management, M.D./Ph.D. or M.D./M.S.E. dual-degree programs.

The new class will be the first to work in "learning communities"—seven students and their advisor in each group—a configuration that will ensure personal attention for students while enhancing a sense of community within the school. One of the hallmarks of a gift from the Jaharis Family Foundation, the learning communities are housed in newly renovated space on the second and third floors of the Sackler Center. Full of vibrant colors and comfy chairs, the communities provide space for classes, group study and mentoring and advising. Outfitted with TVs and kitchenettes, the new spaces also offer students a place to relax and socialize. The learning communities are named for pioneers in medicine, including Pierre and Marie Curie, Galen, the Greek medical researcher and philosopher; William Harvey, the English physician credited with being the first in the Western world to describe the way the heart pumps blood through the body; and Maimonides, the preeminent medieval Jewish physician and philosopher.

## Healthful dining is now steps away

Food 4 Thought, a new café in the Sackler Center, is scheduled to open on October 27. The café occupies most of the fourth floor of the Hirsh Health Sciences Library and features a diverse, healthy menu, including smoothies, breakfast quesadillas, grilled Panini, soups and entrée salads tossed to order. Entrées are low in fat, high in fiber and contain complex carbohydrates. Whole-grain breads, wraps, vegetables and fruits are also featured.

Visitors can enjoy the large windowed eating area, browse through popular reading and periodicals from the library and access computer stations. Café hours are Monday through Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Saturday from noon to 6 p.m. and Sunday from 1 to 10 p.m. All hospital personnel are welcome, and cash, MasterCard and Visa are accepted.

Medical school faculty and students collaborated with Tufts Dining and **Andrew Korn** from Catering with Distinction to create a café that is a reflection of the school's mission "to promote human health."

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### PEDIATRICS CHAIR

**Lindsey Grossman, M.D.**, has been appointed chair of pediatrics at Baystate Medical Center and vice chair of pediatrics at the School of Medicine. Grossman received her M.D. from Boston University School of Medicine and did her residency at the University of Maryland Hospital. Her research focuses on addressing the issues of children with special needs. She comes to Baystate and Tufts from the University of Maryland Hospital, where she was director of pediatric ambulatory programs, director of the children with special health-care needs program and assistant director of the residency program.

### SIMULATION NATION

**Jesse Rideout, M.D.**, has been appointed director of simulation education at the medical school and will oversee the new Clinical Skills and Simulation Center. Rideout also will serve on the Simulation Curriculum Committee, which is co-chaired by **Neal Seymour, M.D.**, vice chair of surgery at Baystate Medical Center, and **Lelan Sillin, M.D.**, medical director for simulation at the Lahey Clinic, and directed by **Gladys Fernandez, M.D.**, head of surgical simulation at Baystate. Rideout recently joined the department of emergency medicine at Tufts Medical Center as an attending physician and is an assistant professor of emergency medicine at the School of Medicine.

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## HERE & THERE

**John M. Coffin**, Ph.D., professor of molecular biology and microbiology, has had his appointment as the American Cancer Society Research Professor of Molecular Biology renewed for another five years, ending in April 2014. The appointment comes with a research grant award of \$373,333 and an annual \$10,000 Professors Research Development Grant.

Coffin's lab at Tufts is working to gain a better understanding of the interaction of retroviruses with their host cells and organisms.

The research professor program recognizes mid-career investigators who have made seminal contributions that have changed the direction of cancer research.

**Benjamin Galen**, M10, and **Virginia Brady**, M11, both earned second place in a national essay contest on the relationship between medical students and pharmaceutical marketing. More than 130 essays were submitted for the contest, which is sponsored by the Attorney General Consumer and Prescriber Education Program, designed to provide health-care professionals and consumers with information on prescription drugs, including the way they are marketed.

Galen and Brady each received \$750 for their essays, a certificate of accomplishment and a copy of the book *Powerful Medicines: The Benefits, Risks and Costs of Prescription Drugs* (Vintage).

## Research targets childhood pneumonia

The National Institutes of Health has selected **Patricia L. Hibberd**, M.D., Ph.D., director of the Center for Global Health Research and a professor of public health and family medicine at Tufts, and her collaborator, Archana Patel, M.D., head of pediatrics at the Indira Gandhi Government Medical College and the Lata Medical Research Foundation in Nagpur, India, to join the Global Network for Women's and Infant's Health Research. Their five-year, \$3.5 million grant focuses on early recognition and treatment of childhood pneumonia—recognized by the World Health Organization and UNICEF as the forgotten, but the number-one killer, of children under age 5 worldwide. Hibberd and Patel will also participate in community-based clinical trials designed to reduce maternal and infant mortality.

The Global Network, funded by the NIH and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, supports multidisciplinary clinical research projects throughout the developing world, including India, Pakistan, Kenya, Zambia, Guatemala and Argentina.

## Student clinicians honored

Four Tufts residents received 2008 Humanism and Excellence in Teaching Awards, sponsored by the Arnold P. Gold Foundation, during the Student Clinician's Ceremony this summer. The awards, which were presented by Dean of Student Affairs **Amy Kuhlik**, M.D., recognize the residents' commitment to teaching and compassionate treatment of patients and their families, students and colleagues. The award winners received a certificate, a gold lapel pin and a check for \$250 from the Gold Foundation.

The awardees, chosen by the third-year Tufts medical students they teach, were: **Cindy Yan**, M.D., M05, chief resident in the department of medicine at Tufts Medical Center, whom students called "the most caring, compassionate resident in the entire medicine department"; **William Benjamin Rothwell**, M.D., a graduate of Tulane Medical School who completed his residency in medicine/pediatrics at Baystate Medical Center; **Danae Netteburg**, M.D., a third-year resident in obstetrics and gynecology at Baystate Medical Center and a graduate of Loma Linda University; and **Heather Anne Ford**, M.D., M05, a surgical resident at Lahey Clinic.

### 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.