

DEAN'S LETTER FOR TUFTS MEDICINE

Jaharis Family Foundation gift will redefine medical campus

With the goal of transforming medical education and the quality of student life, the Jaharis Family Foundation will contribute \$15 million to Tufts University School of Medicine. It is the largest gift in the school's history.

The grant will fund the construction of a campus center in the Sackler Center on Harrison Avenue and a clinical skills and medical simulation center around the corner at 35 Kneeland St. Scheduled to be completed by fall semester 2009, the campus center will provide students with spaces in which to study, socialize, eat and exercise. The simulation center—expected to open in late spring 2008—will include exam rooms where students can practice their clinical skills with live patient actors or computerized mannequins.

To fund the \$20 million cost of the project, the university will provide \$5 million in matching funds. In addition, the Jaharis family has asked the school to raise \$7.5 million so that once construction has been completed, a portion of their gift can be directed to scholarships, the leading priority of the school and the Jaharis family. Already, 123 additional seats have been created in the Hirsh Health Sciences Library by relocating some of the stacks to a compact shelving area in the basement of the Jaharis Center across the street or converting materials to electronic access.

This fall, meetings are being held with faculty, staff and students to refine the details that will enliven the project's vision. You can follow the progress of the project and view a slideshow of conceptual floor plans and sketches by visiting the "Building Our Future" website at <http://www.tufts.edu/med/news/buildingourfuture>. The medical community is also invited to ask questions and comment on the project via email at buildingourfuture@elist.tufts.edu.

This is not the first time the generosity of **Steven Jaharis**, M.D., M87, and his father, **Michael Jaharis**, chair of the medical school's Board of Overseers and a university trustee *emeritus*, has transformed Tufts' health sciences campus. The family provided the naming gift for the Jaharis Family Center on Harrison Avenue, opened in 2002.

The importance of giving back

Mary Y. Lee, M.D., J75, M83, has donated \$100,000 to create a fund to support clinical education at the School of Medicine. Because clinical faculty members are employed by their hospitals, not the school, they volunteer to teach medical students in keeping with their Hippocratic pledge to pass knowledge on. The fund will provide the clinical faculty with seed money for innovative teaching programs and support their professional growth as educators.

Calling the clinical faculty the "backbone of the curriculum," Lee said, "My wish is that this fund can help support these and other faculty in their professional growth as outstanding clinical educators."

Lee, who was the medical school's dean of educational affairs for 12 years, is now associate provost of Tufts. With her 25th reunion coming up, she urges her classmates to consider a contribution to the as-yet unnamed fund. To donate, contact Joshua Young at 617.636.3604 or joshua.young@tufts.edu.

OCTOBER 2007

HERE & THERE

David M. Barrett, M.D., professor of urology and president and CEO of the Lahey Clinic, has been named Healthcare Executive of the Year by the American College of Healthcare Executives.

Sandra Bellantonio, M.D., assistant clinical professor of medicine at Baystate Medical Center, has been selected as a Leadership Scholar by the Association of Directors of Geriatric Academic Programs. She will be one of five physicians to participate in a two-year training program designed to develop the leadership and management skills of new geriatrics directors.

William Dretler, M.D., M35, celebrated his 100th birthday at Fenway Park on July 15. The retired physician and World War II veteran enjoyed vanilla ice cream as he watched Josh Beckett battle the Toronto Blue Jays from his seats behind home plate.

Charlotte Kuperwasser, Ph.D., assistant professor of anatomy, was one of the main speakers at the Breast Cancer Research Foundation's celebration of its 2007-08 New England grant recipients. The "Hot Pink Party" took place at Boston's Museum of Fine Arts on Tuesday, October 9.

Tufts | School of
UNIVERSITY | Medicine

FUNDING INCREASE

The NIH has nearly doubled its support for students in the M.D./Ph.D. program offered by the Sackler School in conjunction with the School of Medicine. Led by **James Schwob**, M.D., Ph.D., the program is designed for students who want to pursue careers that include research and clinical practice, and bridges the disparate cultures of scientific investigation and clinical medicine. As of July, the number of NIH-supported slots increased from four to seven, thanks to the leadership of Sackler Dean **Naomi Rosenberg**, and a core of dedicated faculty. It is an impressive distinction given the current climate at the National Institute for General Medical Sciences (NIGMS), which funds Medical Scientist Training Programs. The NIGMS covers the majority of each student's annual stipend and a portion of tuition and fees.

UNIVERSITY SEMINAR

The Provost's Office is launching a new cross-school initiative, the University Seminar, in which faculty from at least two Tufts schools will team-teach a course on a pressing societal problem, such as AIDS or climate change, from the perspective of multiple disciplines.

Undergraduates and students from Tufts' graduate and health sciences schools will be able to receive credit for the seminar, which will begin in the 2008–09 academic year. Faculty interested in proposing a seminar need to submit a letter of interest by September 28. You'll find more detailed information at http://provost.tufts.edu/1172048132183/Provost-Page-prov2w_1174562916192.html

Enter the Class of 2011

The Admissions Committee read 6,854 applications and interviewed 844 prospective students. And on August 22, the 173 students in the Class of 2011 began their medical school careers.

The 90 men and 83 women hail from 24 states and eight nations, including Korea, Nigeria and Ecuador. The class boasts a collective mean total GPA of 3.61. While most of the class enrolled in the traditional M.D. program, 34 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. Thirty-two students attended Tufts University as undergraduates. Other feeder schools include Boston College, Brandeis University and Brown University.

For the 2007–08 admissions cycle, the Admissions Committee welcomes the following newly elected members: **Christopher Davidson**, M.D.; **Yoav Golan**, M.D.; and **Samina Khan**, M.D., all of Tufts-New England Medical Center; **John Kauer**, Ph.D., professor of neuroscience; **Kenneth Lakritz**, M.D., and **Arthur Rabinowitz**, M.D., of the Lahey Clinic; and **Kiame Mahaniah**, M.D., of the Great Lawrence Family Health Center.

In addition, 21 fourth-year students will provide applicants with an enriched experience during their interview days. The students are full participants on the committee and also give tours and provide insight into life at Tufts School of Medicine.

New program, first class

The 53 members of the inaugural class of the M.S. in Biomedical Sciences Program convened for the first time for orientation on August 24 and began their coursework on August 28. Designed specifically for students aiming to become stronger applicants to medical school or other biomedical pursuits, the new master's degree program in the School of Medicine gives students the best possible preparation for admittance to the schools of their choice and for achieving success in those programs.

Alvar W. Gustafson, Ph.D., associate professor of anatomy, directs the program. **Vivian Stephens-Hicks**, M.P.H., is the program manager, and **John A. Blust** is the program and scheduling coordinator. For more information about the master's program, go to <http://www.tufts.edu/med/education/mbbs/> or call 617.636.3918.

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