

DEAN'S LETTER FOR TUFTS MEDICINE

It's a match

On March 20, 164 members of the Class of 2009 learned where they will spend their years of residency training. Match Day, as it is known, is conducted by the National Resident Matching Program for more than 15,000 U.S. medical school seniors nationwide.

In keeping with recent trends at Tufts, almost half the class was matched to primary-care specialties, including internal medicine, family practice and pediatrics. Eighteen percent of Tufts medical students will train to become surgeons. Emergency medicine, anesthesiology and radiology were other popular specialties. Four students will enter military residencies, and five members of the class are pursuing research or other avenues. The Class of 2009 will disperse to 27 states; however, as in previous years, Massachusetts, New York and California will draw the lion's share of the new physicians.

And they're off...

Commencement for the School of Medicine and the Sackler School of Graduate Biomedical Sciences was held in the Gantcher Center on the Medford/Somerville campus on May 17. In her commencement address, **Ellen Zane**, president and CEO of Tufts Medical Center and the Floating Hospital for Children, described her own prescription for fixing the U.S. health-care system: coverage must be universal and include mental health and dental health; it must promote wellness and evidence-based medicine, and it must embrace the latest technology, among other goals.

Silvia Krause, Ph.D., a cancer researcher who gave the Sackler student address, pointed out that President Barack Obama intends to make cancer research a top priority of his administration, doubling the funds available in her field. Medical class president **Jacob Chacko**, M.D., joked with his classmates about the shared ordeal of their training, reminding them of the salutary roles played by family and friends. He ended humbly, saying, "We may know a lot of things, but that knowledge has yet to be tested."

During the all-university Commencement ceremony earlier in the day, Massachusetts Gov. Deval L. Patrick delivered the main address and received an honorary degree. "More and more families are working harder and still losing ground," Patrick said. "The poor are in terrible shape and have been for some while. But the difference is that now the middle class is one paycheck away, one serious illness away from being poor and deeply anxious about it. That is the world you are about to inhabit—a society in many ways in anguish and an economy in crisis," the governor said. "And I want you to embrace it because crisis is a platform for change." Other honorary degree recipients included David W. Burke, A57, an accomplished figure in public service and television news; Leslie H. Gelb, A59, a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and foreign-affairs expert; Sister Margaret A. Leonard, executive director of Project Hope; Patricia Q. Stonesifer, former CEO of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; C. Megan Urry, J77, the Israel Munson Professor of Physics and Astronomy at Yale University; and Robert A. Weinberg, founding member of the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research.

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ELECTED TO NAS

Ralph R. Isberg, Ph.D., has been elected to the National Academy of Sciences. He is a Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigator, professor of molecular biology and microbiology at the School of Medicine and a member of the molecular microbiology program at the Sackler School. Isberg's research focuses on the analysis of bacterial uptake and growth in mammalian cells, the earliest stages of the infection process. Comprising just 2,150 elite scientists, the National Academy of Sciences is a private organization established by an 1863 congressional act to advise the federal government in matters of science and technology.

CHIEF NEUROLOGIST

Anish Bhardwaj, M.D., will join Tufts in August as neurologist-in-chief at Tufts Medical Center and chair of neurology at Tufts School of Medicine. His research focuses on methods for protecting the brain after acute stroke, for which he has received substantial and ongoing NIH funding. He will lead the medical center's neurology services and research initiatives and play a major role in expanding the hospital's neurosciences clinical and research program. Bhardwaj comes to Tufts from the Department of Neurology at Oregon Health & Science University, where he serves as professor and vice chair of neurology and director of the Neurosciences Critical Care Program and Neuroscience Stroke Laboratory.

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HERE & THERE

Mario E. Motta, M.D., M78, assistant clinical professor of medicine, has been elected president of the Massachusetts Medical Society, the state-wide professional organization of physicians. He will serve a one-year term as the top officer of the society whose membership includes more than 21,000 physicians, residents and medical students throughout the Commonwealth. Motta is a fellow of the American College of Cardiology and the American Society of Nuclear Cardiology and has been on the Tufts faculty since 1993.

Brian J.G. Pereira, M.D., professor of medicine, is the recipient of the 2009 David M. Hume Award, the National Kidney Foundation's highest honor. Pereira's research "has resulted in better-designed policies in dialysis centers and organ transplantation and a better understanding of the transmission and course of hepatitis C," says Bryan Becker, president of the National Kidney Foundation. "His research has resulted in a greater focus on chronic kidney disease care." Pereira is the editor of the widely used textbook *Chronic Kidney Disease, Dialysis and Transplantation*.

Giuseppina Tesco, M.D., Ph.D., has joined the medical school's department of neuroscience as an assistant professor. Tesco studies the mechanisms by which strokes and head injuries can increase the risk of Alzheimer's disease. Her lab has shown that the brain cell death caused by these traumas can trigger a series of biochemical events that may lead to the development of the disease. Tesco comes to Tufts from Harvard. A native of Prato, Italy, she earned her M.D. in 1989 from the University of Florence, where she also completed her Ph.D. in neuroscience in 1999.

Researchers seek stimulus funding

Tufts medical researchers submitted 90 grant proposals to the federal government in April in an effort to obtain some of the \$13 billion in stimulus funding earmarked for the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation. More than 30 of the projects were submitted as NIH Challenge Grants in Health and Science Research, a new initiative that allocates a minimum of \$200 million to 200 or more projects designed to evaluate outcomes of various treatment options for given medical conditions.

During a June 5 visit to Tufts Medical Center, U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius announced that nearly \$200 million of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 will support education loan repayments for primary-care medical, dental and mental health clinicians in exchange for two years of service with the National Health Service Corps (NHSC). Over the last four decades, NHSC has placed more than 30,000 health-care providers in underserved and economically distressed regions of the country. The new funds are expected to double the number of NHSC clinicians who care for uninsured and underserved patients. After her announcement, Sebelius toured the Tufts Floating Hospital for Children and held a town hall-style discussion with health-care experts and Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick on the importance of health-care reform.

Award-winning teachers

Michael Worthington, M.D., and **Kevin Hinchey, M.D.**, are the 2009 recipients of the Milton O., M30, and Natalie V. Zucker Clinical Teaching Prizes. Worthington is chief of infectious diseases at Caritas St. Elizabeth's Medical Center, and Hinchey is the internal medicine residency program director at Baystate Medical Center. The award recipients are nominated by their peers and then selected by the School of Medicine's Curriculum Committee.

This year, for the first time, the winner of the Mark Aisner, M.D., Award for Excellence in Teaching Physical Diagnosis is not an individual but a team of medical educators at the Lemuel Shattuck Hospital. Led by **Farshid Fararooy, M.D.**, the Shattuck team was recognized for their outstanding teaching of second-year Tufts medical students. The team includes: **Arielle Adrien-Jean, M.D., M.P.H.**, **Salah Alrakawi, M.D.**, **Alin Bortan, M.D.**, **Jack Cadigan, M.D.**, **Daniella Floru, M.D.**, **John Jameson, M.D.**, **Carl Kramer, M.D.**, **Ken Pariser, M.D.**, **Rochelle Scheib, M.D.**, and **Peter Workum, M.D.** The awards were presented at the June 1 general faculty meeting.

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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