

# DEAN'S LETTER FOR TUFTS MEDICINE

## Surgeon named academic dean at Lahey Clinic

**David J. Schoetz Jr.**, M.D., professor of surgery, has been appointed the inaugural Tufts academic dean at the Lahey Clinic, an affiliate of the medical school. Schoetz received his medical degree from the Medical College of Wisconsin, where he was elected to Alpha Omega Alpha. His postgraduate training in surgery was completed with a residency at Boston University Medical Center and fellowship training in colorectal surgery at the Lahey Clinic. He has been on the medical school faculty since 1996.

"The creation of the position of the Tufts academic dean at the Lahey Clinic represents an important step forward in the relationship between the medical school and the Lahey Clinic," Dean **Michael Rosenblatt**, M.D., said, "and we are delighted to have someone of Dr. Schoetz' accomplishment and stature to serve as the first person in this role."

Schoetz has served as the president of American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons and is a former president of the Board of Colon and Rectal Surgery. He has been editor-in-chief of *Seminars in Colon and Rectal Surgery* and associate editor of the journal *Inflammatory Bowel Diseases*. The author of more than 140 original articles, reviews and book chapters, Schoetz has been a visiting professor at institutions in the United States and around the world and has received multiple teaching awards.

## Longtime faculty member retires

Distinguished physician, educator and administrator **Robert D. Kennison**, M.D., professor of obstetrics and gynecology, is retiring on December 31 after more than 40 years of service to Tufts-New England Medical Center and Tufts School of Medicine.

Kennison, M60, became chief resident in gynecology at NEMC in 1964 and a teaching fellow in obstetrics and gynecology at the medical school. He has held positions at both institutions ever since, including several leadership roles in the hospital's Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and as part of the school's administration, where he has played a key role in curriculum innovation. He is a past president of the Tufts Medical Alumni Association and a member of the University Alumni Council. A frequent recipient of teaching awards, Kennison won the school's Zucker Teaching Prize in 2000. He is also a captain in the Army Medical Corps and served in the Womack Army Medical Center's Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology from 1965-67 and in 1995.

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### HERE & THERE

This winter, **James Schwob**, M.D., Ph.D., professor of anatomy, will take the reins of the Medical Scientist Training Program (MSTP), designed for students who want to pursue careers that include both research and clinical practice. Schwob, who received his M.D./Ph.D. from Washington University, had considerable experience leading M.D./Ph.D. training prior to his arrival at Tufts. **Naomi Rosenberg**, Ph.D., dean of the Sackler School, will also maintain her active role in the program. Schwob succeeds **Matthew K. Waldor**, M.D., Ph.D., who is leaving Tufts for a position at Harvard early next year.

**Alvar Gustafson**, Ph.D., associate professor of anatomy and cellular biology, has been appointed faculty director of the new M.S. program in biomedical sciences. The new degree program is directed at prospective medical students who want to strengthen their candidacy. A talented teacher, Gustafson is course director for medical histology, the medical pre-matriculation program and dental histology. An active member of the steering committee that developed the M.S. program, he is in an ideal position to bring this important new program to fruition.

## YELLOW MONSTER

**Doug Brugge**, Ph.D., associate professor of public health and family medicine, is the editor of a new book that reflects his long engagement with the legacy of uranium mining on Navajo reservations out West. *The Navajo People and Uranium Mining* (University of New Mexico Press, 2006) charts decades of neglect dating from World War II, when the hazards of uranium exposure on the part of miners and their families were brushed aside in a race to build atomic bombs. The book is the result of the 10-year-long Navajo Uranium Miner Project, headed by Brugge, in which he and his book co-editors, Timothy Benally and Esther Yazzie Lewis, both Navajo speakers, interviewed miners and drew from clinical and historical sources to document the legacy of what the Navajos called Leetso, "the powerful yellow monster."

## JUST SOLUTIONS

The AMA has just published two books by **Edward J. O'Neil**, M.D., an emergency physician at St Elizabeth's and an assistant professor of emergency medicine at Tufts. *Awakening Hippocrates: A Primer on Health, Poverty and Global Service* and *A Practical Guide to Global Health Service* answer the basic but important questions: Why do we have such poverty and health inequality in a time of medical miracles, and what can individuals do about it? *Awakening Hippocrates* profiles seven exemplary health-care providers, including Albert Schweitzer, Tom Dooley and Paul Farmer. *A Practical Guide* offers instructions on how anyone can serve in poor regions and includes a database of more than 300 organizations looking for volunteers. Go to [www.omnimed.org](http://www.omnimed.org) for information.

## A new assignment

Associate Provost **Mary Y. Lee**, M.D., will be moving to the university provost's office full-time in January. For the past five years, she has pulled double duty as associate provost and dean for educational affairs at the School of Medicine.

In her new role, she will focus on several fronts, including the library system, educational resources and faculty development. Lee will be increasingly engaged with the successful Tufts OpenCourseWare project, which allows tens of thousands of people across the globe to access courses taught at Tufts.

In her 12 years as the dean for educational affairs, Lee helped promote a culture of teamwork and collaboration among faculty, staff and students. She supported many innovative curriculum initiatives.

"Her innovations...have put the school in a leadership position in medical education," said Dean Michael Rosenblatt. "Mary is recognized internationally for her achievements."

## Grant fosters partnerships in India

The School of Medicine has received \$250,000 from an anonymous foundation. The grant will support an initiative to share the Tufts University Science Knowledgebase (TUSK) with partner institutions in India, starting with Christian Medical College (CMC) in Vellore. The funding will allow trained Tufts students and faculty to travel to India and work alongside peers at CMC to adapt and create relevant course material. Under the direction of **Harris Berman**, M.D., the team will also work to increase TUSK's portability and ease of local maintenance. The school has had a relationship with CMC, India's premier private medical school, for more than 20 years.

## A model for medical education

A \$15,000 grant from the Josiah Macy Jr. Foundation will support the development of a model network of integrated, patient-centered medical simulations across the school and its affiliated hospitals, advancing best practices and standards in medical education.

The model will be used to develop standards for skill development and to create advanced case scenarios for training. Through these efforts, Tufts continues to foster patient-centered teams of learning and care that encourage continuous feedback.

### 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.

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