

DEAN'S LETTER FOR TUFTS MEDICINE

Medical school hosts forum on diversity

More than 100 faculty, staff and students attended the Medical School Forum on Diversity, which Dean **Michael Rosenblatt**, M.D., hosted on January 3. The discussion focused on identifying areas of concern and the steps that might be taken to address them. Highlights from the forum can be found at www.tufts.edu/med.

The medical school also will begin a search for a Dean for Multicultural Affairs. Vice Dean **Jeff Glassroth**, M.D., will chair the search. The first step of the process will be to craft a job description that captures the myriad important responsibilities that the new dean will undertake.

On issues of diversity, the medical school will work closely with Lisa M. Coleman, the former director of Tufts' Africana Center, who was appointed executive director of the university's Office of Institutional Diversity on January 1.

Faculty, staff, students and alumni of the medical and Sackler schools may send comments and suggestions to Coleman at lisa.coleman@tufts.edu.

New chair of radiology

E. Kent Yucel, M.D., FACR, has been appointed professor and chair of radiology at the School of Medicine and radiologist-in-chief at Tufts-New England Medical Center. He starts his new job in February, succeeding **Joseph Polak**, M.D., M.P.H., who served as the department's interim chair during the past several months.

Yucel comes to Tufts from the Boston VA Healthcare Systems, where he is chief of radiology. Prior to that, he was director of cardiovascular imaging, co-director of cardiac MRI and associate director of the Noninvasive Vascular Laboratory at Brigham and Women's Hospital.

A graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Medical School, Yucel completed his postgraduate training at Yale-New Haven Hospital, Tufts-NEMC and Massachusetts General Hospital. Board-certified in diagnostic radiology and vascular and interventional radiology, Yucel's clinical specialties include angiography, peripheral vascular intervention, computed tomography and magnetic resonance imaging of the cardiovascular system.

Student awarded fellowship

Royce Chen, M08, has received a \$30,000 Medical Student Eye Research Fellowship from Research to Prevent Blindness (RPB). The grant will enable Chen to take a year off from medical school to conduct research under the mentorship of **Jay S. Duker**, M.D., ophthalmologist-in-chief at Tufts-NEMC and director of the New England Eye Center. Chen will use a high-speed, ultra-high-resolution imaging device to obtain cross-sectional images of the retina to better understand the mechanisms and pathology of various eye diseases. For information on RPB, go to www.rpbusa.org.

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HERE & THERE

Desmond H. Birkett, M.D., FACS, clinical professor of surgery and chair of general surgery at the Lahey Clinic, has been honored with the Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons' 2007 Distinguished Service Award for his contributions to surgical endoscopy.

Michael H. Entrup, M.D., assistant clinical professor of anesthesiology and chair of the Lahey Clinic's Department of Anesthesiology, has been appointed to the board of directors of the American Society of Anesthesiologists. The board comprises one member from each state. He has served on the executive committee of the Massachusetts Society of Anesthesiologists since 1995, and is a past president of the state organization.

Otolaryngologist **Terry J. Garfinkle**, M.D., clinical professor of pediatrics and a member of the medical staff at North Shore/Salem Hospital, has been awarded the Dr. E. Augustus Holyoke Memorial Award for professional excellence and service to the community. He is founding director, past president and current legislative director of the Massachusetts Society of Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery. The award commemorates the legacy of Holyoke, an 18th-century physician who was the first president of the Massachusetts Medical Society.

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TOP FACULTY

Claire L. Moore, Ph.D., professor of molecular biology and microbiology; **David A. Adler**, M.D., professor of psychiatry; **John J. Castellot Jr.**, Ph.D., professor of anatomy and cell biology; and **Mary Y. Lee**, M.D., associate professor of medicine and the university's associate provost, are the recipients of this year's Distinguished Faculty Awards. Established in 1991, the awards recognize those who have made outstanding contributions to the School of Medicine through their teaching, scholarship and service. More information about this faculty-initiated award can be found at www.tufts.edu/med/about/facultydevelopment/facultydevelopment/distinguishedfaculty

NEW TO TUFTS

Ekaterina (Katya) Heldwein, Ph.D., has joined the faculty as an assistant professor of molecular biology and microbiology. She uses biochemical, biophysical and structural biology methods to study viral pathogenesis. As a graduate student at Oregon Health Sciences University, she solved the structure of a multi-drug transporter protein. She continued her training at Harvard Medical School, where she determined the structure of the first herpes virus entry glycoprotein. Heldwein will continue this line of investigation at Tufts, seeking to create a kinetic picture of the entire entry mechanism used by this important group of pathogenic viruses. She is also expanding her approach to include cytomegalovirus, a member of the herpes virus family.

Russo Family Trust funds biomedical researchers

In support of its goal to stimulate cutting-edge research at the medical school and its affiliated teaching hospitals, the Russo Family Charitable Foundation Trust has funded two more research projects.

The grant committee has selected a project titled "A Chemical Genetic Approach to Inhibiting T-ag Assembly on the Viral Organ," submitted by **Peter A. Bullock**, Ph.D., professor of biochemistry, and **Andrew Wright**, Ph.D., professor of microbiology. The researchers will use a genetic screen to identify a way to stop virus proteins from interacting with DNA. The project's long-term goal is to identify inhibitors that may block herpes simplex virus, human papilloma virus and other agents of human disease.

A project titled "Restoration of Sensory Function after Spinal Cord Injury," submitted by **Eric Frank**, Ph.D., professor and chair of physiology; **David Kaplan**, Ph.D., professor and chair of biomedical engineering at Tufts School of Engineering; and **Rajendra Kumar-Singh**, Ph.D., associate professor of ophthalmology, will also receive support from the Russo Trust. This research aims to improve the way molecules that can stimulate growth of axons, or nerve fibers, are delivered to the site of injury while also seeking to improve the ability of regenerating neurons to reconnect with the spinal cord. The research group hopes that a combination of these two approaches will pave the way for improved treatment of spinal cord injuries.

Family medicine program awarded accreditation

Cambridge Health Alliance has received accreditation for its family medicine residency program, which is part of a new multi-specialty health-care facility in Malden, Mass., that will serve as a teaching site for Tufts family medicine graduate students. The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education, a nonprofit that accredits more than 8,000 U.S. medical residency programs, granted its approval in December.

The new health-care center, located at 195 Canal St., will provide services to Malden residents of all ages. The center will be staffed by primary-care physicians and feature state-of-the-art equipment and some limited emergency services. The clinic is scheduled to open on July 1.

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