

# DEAN'S LETTER FOR TUFTS MEDICINE

## Baystate Simulation Center wins national accreditation

Baystate Medical Center's Simulation Center and Goldberg Surgical Skills Laboratory has been nationally accredited as a Level I Education Institute by the American College of Surgeons (ACS). **Neal Seymour**, M.D., associate professor of surgery at Tufts and director of the Baystate center, accepted the certificate of accreditation, which is good for three years, on behalf of the Tufts-affiliated hospital in Springfield, Mass.

As one of only 15 Level I Education Institutes in the country, Baystate joins a short list of distinguished innovators in medical education. One of the goals of the ACS accreditation program is to build a national community of institutions interested in furthering surgical education.

To meet future demands for simulation training, Baystate's Simulation Center is undergoing a major renovation. The Goldberg Surgical Skills Lab will be reconfigured, and three simulation training rooms and a central control room will be added. When the project is completed this fall, one room will be transformed into an operating room with a high-fidelity simulator, while two other rooms will simulate a patient's hospital room and an ER. The experience and expertise gained at Baystate's Simulation Center will help Tufts School of Medicine further develop its surgical training curriculum and develop its own simulation center.

## Homegrown leaders

Two alumni of the School of Medicine have been appointed to leadership positions in academic medicine. **Donald E. Wilson**, M.D., M62, has been appointed senior vice president for health sciences at Howard University in Washington, D.C., and **Michael F. Collins**, M.D., M81, is the new senior vice president for health sciences and interim chancellor of UMass Medical School.

A member of the Board of Overseers to the medical school, Wilson is the former vice president for medical affairs at the University of Maryland and dean of the University of Maryland School of Medicine. At Howard University, he is responsible for the management and leadership of the university's health sciences clinical and research enterprise as well as Howard University Hospital, the College of Medicine, the College of Dentistry, the College of Pharmacy, Nursing and Allied Health and the Health Sciences Library.

Collins became the seventh chancellor of the University of Massachusetts at Boston in June 2005. A board-certified physician in internal medicine and a fellow of the American College of Physicians, he has spent his career in academic medicine, including as an administrator and faculty member at Tufts School of Medicine and as president and CEO of Caritas Christi Health Care, the Catholic health-care system of the Archdiocese of Boston that is a teaching affiliate of Tufts' medical school.

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### HERE & THERE

**Joseph W. Gravel Jr.**, M.D., M86, associate professor of public health and family medicine and program director of the Tufts Family Medicine Residency Program at Cambridge Health Alliance, received the Association of Family Medicine Residency Directors' (AFMRD) 2007 Gold Level Program Director Award on June 11 in Overland Park, Kan. The award honors accomplishments in training residents, program performance and legislative advocacy. At the same meeting, Gravel was re-elected to a two-year term as a member-at-large of the AFMRD Board of Directors after receiving the highest number of votes from his program director peers nationwide in a field of six candidates.

**Claire L. Moore**, Ph.D., professor of molecular biology and microbiology, has been elected a fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology. She has made major contributions to our understanding of the eukaryotic mRNA 3' end formation.

**Kenneth L. Noller**, M.D., the Louis E. Phaneuf Professor and chair of obstetrics and gynecology, has been named president of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. He is gynecologist-in-chief at Tufts-New England Medical Center.

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**PEW SCHOLAR**

**Ekaterina Heldwein, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of microbiology, is among the newest class of 20 Pew Scholars in the Biomedical Sciences. With support from a four-year, \$240,000 grant from the Pew Charitable Trusts, she will study how herpes viruses enter human cells. A graduate of Oregon Health and Science University, she trained at Children's Hospital in Boston and Harvard Medical School.

**HOOD AWARD**

**Laurel K. Leslie, M.D., M.P.H.**, assistant professor of medicine, is one of five New England researchers to receive a Child Health Research Award from the Charles H. Hood Foundation. The two-year grants are given to junior faculty working in the six New England states who have made significant contributions to child health research and have the potential to attract major federal and/or private funding. Leslie's research is examining the use of medication for behavioral problems in children who are in the child protective services/foster care system. She joined the faculty of Tufts' Institute for Clinical Research and Health Policy Studies in January 2007.

**SOCIETY FELLOW**

**Eli Peli, O.D.**, adjunct professor of ophthalmology and director of the vision rehabilitation service at Tufts-NEMC, has been elected a fellow of the International Society for Optical Engineering. He was one of the first to use digital imaging to analyze the nerve fiber layer in glaucoma and to measure drusen changes in age-related macular degeneration.

## 4 faculty receive Charlton Grants

Four faculty members have been awarded Charlton Grants by the medical school's Scientific Affairs Committee. The \$9,000 awards support research projects that are likely to lead to funding from extramural sources, such as the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation.

The recipients are **Andrew Bohm, Ph.D.**, associate professor of biochemistry; **Ramesh Krishnan, M.D.**, assistant clinical professor of pediatrics, who works in the Division of Neonatal Medicine at Eastern Maine Medical Center; **Timothy Mader, M.D.**, associate professor of emergency medicine at Baystate Medical Center; and **Jin Xu, Ph.D.**, research assistant professor of neurology, who works at Caritas St. Elizabeth's Medical Center.

## AMA Foundation president

**Barbara P. Rockett, M.D., M57**, has been elected president of the American Medical Association Foundation, the philanthropic arm of the American Medical Association. A former president of the Tufts Medical Alumni Association, she is a practicing surgeon in Newton, Mass. She has a long history of service to the profession and has served on the AMA Foundation Board of Directors since January 2001. Her term runs through July 2009. Rockett served as a Tufts trustee from 1988 to 2002, and she is an overseer to the School of Medicine. She is on the medical staffs of Newton-Wellesley Hospital, St. Elizabeth's Hospital and New England Baptist Hospital. She is a past president of the Massachusetts Medical Society, a post she held for an unprecedented two years.

## E-balloting has arrived

This year, elections for the medical school's standing faculty committees were conducted online, thanks to a new, secure Web-based application. After providing faculty with information about the candidates, the online balloting recorded votes anonymously. Election results were available immediately after the balloting closed, eliminating the weeks of staff effort it previously took to process paper ballots.

The online tool was developed by the school's Office of Information Technology as part of a new faculty website (<https://webapps.moit.tufts.edu/faculty>), which also gives faculty access to a variety of electronic services.

**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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