

DEAN'S LETTER FOR TUFTS MEDICINE

MARCH 2009

Sackler family gift funds collaborative cancer research

A \$2 million gift from the Sackler family will encourage more collaborative cancer research across Tufts' campuses and affiliated hospitals. The gift will establish a fund to support innovative research aimed at the translation of scientific discovery into cures or effective treatments for cancer.

Each research team will consist of at least one faculty member from the Sackler School of Graduate Biomedical Sciences as well as research partners from other Tufts schools or any of the university's teaching hospitals.

The gift was a joint donation from the Raymond and Beverly Sackler Foundation, the Mortimer Sackler Family Foundation and the family of the late Arthur M. Sackler, for whom the Sackler Center on Tufts' health sciences campus is named. The Sackler School was established in 1980 with a joint gift from the three brothers, Arthur M. Sackler, Raymond R. Sackler and Mortimer D. Sackler.

Classroom innovators

Five proposals designed to enhance the medical school's core educational programs have been selected to receive the fifth annual Innovations in Education Intramural Grants. Dean **Michael Rosenblatt**, M.D., introduced the program in 2004 to encourage creative, innovative and more effective approaches to teaching and learning.

This year's recipients and their projects are: **Carol Fleishman**, M.C., CAS, and **Debra Rothenberg**, M.D., Ph.D., Maine Medical Center, "Developing and Assessing Cultural Awareness and Competence in Medical Students;" **Priya Garg**, M.D., Tufts Medical Center, "Transitioning to Internship: Improving Fourth-year Medical Students' Verbal Presentation Skills;" **Sarah Goff**, M.D., and **John O'Reilly**, M.D., Baystate Medical Center, "Enhancing Third-year TUSM Students' Ethics and Professional Curriculum through the Use of Video Vignettes;" **Jesse Rideout**, M.D., and **David Greenblatt**, M.D., Tufts Medical Center, "High Fidelity Medical Simulation for Second-year Medical Students;" and **Jenny Skolfield**, M.S., and **Bob Trowbridge**, M.D., Maine Medical Center, "Novel Delivery of a Faculty Development Program: The Web-based Objective Structured Teaching Encounter."

HERE & THERE

Ken Goldsmith, M.P.P., has been appointed assistant dean for administration and finance at the medical school. He spent the last 11 years at MIT, most recently as director of finance for the Media Lab. Goldsmith also has held financial positions at the Chicago Park District, the Federal Reserve Bank and the University of Chicago. He produced the "Affairs of State" program for the former Christian Science Monitor TV station. Goldsmith received his undergraduate education at Oberlin College and a master's in public policy, with a concentration in finance, from the University of Chicago.

Elizabeth A. Pomfret, M.D., Ph.D., an associate professor of surgery, has been appointed chair of the Department of Transplantation at Lahey Clinic, where she has oversight for the liver and kidney transplantation program and the soon-to-be developed pancreas transplantation program. Pomfret led the team that performed the region's first adult live donor liver transplant 10 years ago, before joining Lahey in 1999, where she developed the program in adult live donor liver transplantation. The program has performed the most live donor transplants (nearly 200) of any other center in the U.S. Since 2007, she has chaired the Organ Procurement Transplantation Network/United Network for Organ Sharing Liver and Intestinal Transplantation Committee, which develops policy for all U.S. transplant programs.

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TRAUMA CENTER

Tufts Medical Center has won approval as a major adult trauma center from the American College of Surgeons (ACS) and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. The designation translates into improved care for all patients, because it requires the hospital to have more highly trained staff on-site or nearby and to collect extensive data on patient outcomes.

"This designation is important to our patients across the region, as well as our neighbors in the Chinatown community, for which Tufts Medical Center serves as the primary emergency health-care facility," said **Reuven Rabinovici**, M.D., chief of trauma at the hospital and a professor of surgery at Tufts Medical School. To achieve its new status, the hospital was required to meet stringent ACS guidelines, including having an operating room open and ready at all times as well as a trauma surgeon within 15 minutes of the hospital 24 hours a day. The Floating Hospital for Children at Tufts Medical Center has long operated the Kiwanis Pediatric Trauma Institute, a designated trauma center for children and the first dedicated pediatric trauma center in the country.

FINANCIAL LITERACY 101

Starting this fall, the Financial Aid Office will offer a financial literacy program for all medical students. Through group presentations, guest speakers, online materials, webinars, emails, blogs and newsletters, the course will educate students about their finances in general as well as about managing debt and credit. In the past, the financial aid office offered sessions only to incoming and graduating students.

Decoding the mysteries of Alzheimer's disease

Tufts scientists have teamed with colleagues at the Wyeth Princeton Research Center in Princeton, N.J., to study Alzheimer's disease and other cognitive defects. As part of a three-year collaboration agreement, **Stephen J. Moss**, Ph.D., professor of neuroscience, will serve as the principal investigator on research that will examine the mechanisms underlying Alzheimer's disease in mouse models.

The researchers will also assess the role of signaling pathways in regulating cognitive defects. The research will draw on work already under way at Tufts and make use of novel imaging techniques pioneered by the Tufts team. "There's a lot we can draw from Wyeth, and a lot they can gain from working with us," said **Philip G. Haydon**, Ph.D., the Annetta and Gustav Grisard Professor and chair of neuroscience at Tufts Medical School, who is a co-investigator on the project.

Construction update

After an extreme makeover, the eighth floor of the Sackler Center reopened at the end of January. Home to the deans of the School of Medicine and the Sackler School of Graduate Biomedical Sciences as well as the financial aid and admissions offices, the renovated space also includes plenty of areas for students, meeting the project's goal of bringing the administration and student body together in one comfortable, airy place.

The new space boasts four large classrooms and 12 admissions interview rooms that can double as study space for students. These private, glass-enclosed rooms run along the solarium, an open, window-lined area furnished with easy chairs and tables, suitable for studying or socializing.

This summer, workers will begin to replace the windows on the Harrison Avenue side of the M&V Building, a project that will result in substantial energy cost savings for the medical school. The electrical wiring now housed in the basement will be relocated and updated. Master's degree and Sackler students can also look forward to a new student lounge on the first floor of Stearns. These projects will require closing the entryway to the M&V Building. Faculty, students and staff will be able to use the doorway located between M&V and Stearns for access to M&V.

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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