



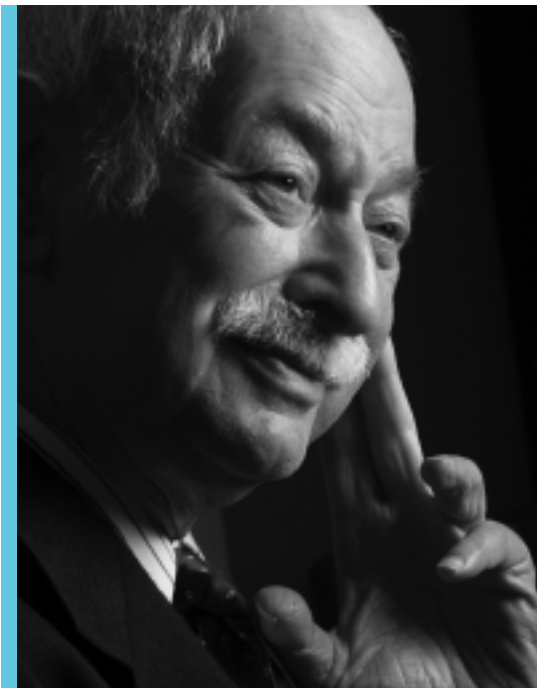
FOUNDATION  
UNIVERSITY OF MEDICINE &  
DENTISTRY OF NEW JERSEY

# OUTLOOK

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## Wallerstein Foundation Endows Senior Programs



*Melvin Wallerstein*

Every day, 10,000 baby boomers turn 50, and many of those who are now 50 years old will live 35 more years. That's why it has become increasingly more important for older individuals to work with specialists who can provide guidance on how to maintain healthy, active lifestyles.

To help seniors learn about aging issues and what they can do to stay healthy, the Wallerstein Foundation for Geriatric Life Improvement has pledged \$250,000 to establish the Endowment Fund to Support the Education Center at the School of Osteopathic Medicine (SOM) at the New Jersey Institute for Successful Aging (NJISA).

"Seniors don't always understand the medical implications of aging, or how to deal with memory loss," said Melvin Wallerstein, president of the Wallerstein Foundation, an organization that has been supporting health and human service programs for the aged in New York and New Jersey for 20 years. "I believe that holding social programs in community centers is a good way to educate the seniors of New Jersey."

NJISA will use funds from the endowment to provide community education programs on health and wellness, brain and memory enhancement, disease prevention, pain management and self-management of chronic diseases.

In addition to its community programs, the Education Center at SOM is nationally and locally recognized for its expertise in geriatric education, providing state-of-the-art interdisciplinary geriatric and gerontology education to prepare the healthcare workforce so that New Jersey's elderly can age successfully and independently in their own homes.

For more information about how you can support the New Jersey Institute for Successful Aging, contact June Hampson, PhD, vice president for development, at (856) 566-6300 or at [hampsoju@umdnj.edu](mailto:hampsoju@umdnj.edu).

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# Avon Foundation Grant Supports Breast Cancer Clinical Research

Each year, the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer hosts fundraising walks around the country to raise money to fund a variety of programs to help breast cancer patients and promote clinical research.



*(l-r) Marc Hurlbert and Lawrence Harrison, MD*

Following this year's New York walk, the Foundation of UMDNJ was the recipient of a check for \$250,000 to support the initiation of a clinical research patient navigator program at New Jersey Medical School-University Hospital Cancer Center.

This was the first year the University received funding from the Avon Foundation.

"We are so pleased and excited to be recognized by such an outstanding organization as the Avon Foundation. The initiation of a clinical patient research navigator program will give our patients another resource that will enable them to focus on their health and getting better," said Lawrence Harrison, MD, oncology surgeon and associate director of the Cancer Center, who personally accepted the check.

Patient navigation assists patients, survivors, families and caregivers by helping them access and chart a course through the healthcare system and overcome any barriers to quality care. A patient navigator can be a registered nurse or a social worker who functions as a guide. Navigators help their patients move through the complexities of the healthcare system, providing more timely treatment, more information about treatment options, and preventive behaviors.

"This year was highly competitive to receive funds from this Avon Foundation program," explained Marc Hurlbert, PhD, senior advisor of the Avon Foundation Breast Cancer Crusade. "We are pleased to extend the Avon Safety Net program to UMDNJ so that they can launch the clinical research patient navigator program to help minority, uninsured and underserved women in Newark and Northern New Jersey navigate the healthcare system."

For more information, contact Martha Bahamon, director of development, at (973) 972-4831 or at bahamoma@umdnj.edu.

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## Advisory Board Members Support NJMS with Generous Gifts

As a testament to the strength of their commitment and dedication, several members of the New Jersey Medical School (NJMS) Board of Advisors have shown great leadership in supporting the school's mission, not only by contributing their time, expertise, professional resources and recommendations, but also by donating or steering generous gifts to the medical school.

- **Dr. Fred Buechel, Sr.**, gave the largest single gift from a graduate of any UMDNJ School—\$2 million to create the Frederick F. Buechel, Sr, MD, Chair for Joint Replacement at New Jersey Medical School. In 2006, he added \$50,000 to that chair.
- **Joseph Muscarelle** contributed \$2 million to establish the Sharon and Joseph L. Muscarelle Endowed Deanship at NJMS, the first endowed deanship at the school and the largest single endowed scholarship in the school's history. Since his affiliation with UMDNJ in 1978, Mr. Muscarelle has contributed more than \$2,200,000 to the University.
- **The Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey**, chaired by **Lester Leiberman**, donated \$3.2 million to help establish the Center for Humanism in Medicine at NJMS, in addition to funding dozens of other worthy projects at UMDNJ.
- **Jeffrey Gitterman**, who also chairs the Advisory Board of the Autism Center of NJMS, has initiated a major annual fundraising event for the past three years to benefit the Autism Center, raising more than \$300,000 per event.
- **Evelyn Self**, director of U.S. corporate giving & philanthropy at sanofi-aventis, has overseen the contribution of a corporate gift of \$600,000 from her company, which was designated to establish the sanofi-aventis Pediatric Asthma Program.
- **Dr. Hugh Evans**, professor of pediatrics, established the Dr. Hugh Evans Legacy Award to support preliminary research by NJMS faculty who subsequently apply for NIH or other research funding. In 2006, Dr. Evans provided more than \$76,000 in seed money to eight NJMS faculty members to advance their research projects.
- **Dr. Joseph V. DiTrolino**, current and longest running President of the NJMS Alumni Association, has given more than \$70,000 to support scholarships and additional Alumni Association activities and donates his time to teach urology residents as a Clinical Professor of Surgery in the Department of Urology.
- Under the leadership of Drs. Arnold and Sandra Gold, **The Arnold P. Gold Foundation** for humanism in medicine has generously donated more than \$15,000 to support various humanism in medicine initiatives at the medical school, including the annual white coat ceremony that welcomes every UMDNJ medical student into the profession and emphasizes the central physician responsibility of compassionate patient care.

*“New Jersey Medical School’s strong and engaged Board of Advisors has provided invaluable support to the school in terms of time and expertise. In addition, we truly value the financial support a number of members have provided. We are heartened by their confidence and trust in us and encouraged by their gifts, which allow NJMS to pursue higher levels of excellence in all of our mission areas.”*

*Robert L. Johnson, MD,  
Sharon and Joseph L.  
Muscarelle Endowed Dean  
(Interim).*

## Cordis Neurovascular Sponsors Internship Program at Stroke Research Center



*Afshin A. Divani, PhD, (center) with 2006 summer interns*

Four medical and undergraduate students had the opportunity to participate in a summer internship program at the Zeenat Qureshi Stroke Research Center at New Jersey Medical School thanks to scholarships provided by Cordis Neurovascular, a division of Johnson & Johnson (J&J).

The grant helped UMDNJ to nurture the next generation of stroke doctors and researchers.

“These scholarships enable us to cultivate interest among medical or undergraduate students who are planning to be involved with research in medicine, particularly in the field

of stroke,” said Afshin A. Divani, PhD, director of the Center. “Cordis and Johnson & Johnson have shown great support and confidence in the mission of the program by supporting student interns for the past two years.”

During the internship, the students engaged in a variety of research activities pertaining to cerebrovascular diseases and stroke including basic science and laboratory research, and epidemiological and clinical studies.

Adnan I. Qureshi, MD and his family generously donated \$250,000 to establish the Zeenat Qureshi Stroke Research Center at New Jersey Medical School in 2005 to honor the memory of his beloved mother who died of a stroke at a very young age. The Center supports the exciting frontiers in cerebrovascular research currently being conducted at the medical school.

## Supporting Education and Patient Care



*Approximately 125 people attended the dedication of the Delta Dental Education Conference Center at New Jersey Dental School, made possible with a \$2 million gift from Delta Dental Plan of New Jersey, Inc. The center contains conference rooms and lecture halls which, when combined, make up the largest auditorium on any UMDNJ campus. (l-r) Gene Napolielo, DDS, Delta Dental Foundation; Gerald Sydell, DDS, Delta Dental of NJ; Dean Cecile A. Feldman, New Jersey Dental School; Walter Van Brunt, Delta Dental of NJ; Bob Shekitka, DMD, New Jersey State Dental Association and George McLaughlin, DMD, Delta Dental Foundation.*



## Celebrating A Legacy of Healthcare Advocacy

Former Senator Joseph A. Maressa has been a passionate supporter of the School of Osteopathic Medicine (SOM) for more than 30 years. In the 1970s, he helped found the school by sponsoring legislation that led to its creation.

Since that time, Senator Maressa has remained a vibrant presence, serving as a member of the UMDNJ Board of Trustees and the Dean's Advisory Board. He has also supported the school by establishing the Senator Joseph A. Maressa Endowed Scholarship, the first and one of the largest endowments at the school created by an individual to benefit SOM students.

To honor the senator for his commitment and dedication, at the 2006 Convocation the school bestowed its Medal of Excellence upon him. He is only the sixth person in the history of the school to receive this honor.

Senator Maressa is proud of his role in SOM's creation and subsequent growth and development, and of his family's commitment to building his legacy. His involvement has inspired his partner, Muriel Mansmann and his four children—Joseph Jr., Anthony, Jo Lynne and Julian (a doctor of osteopathic medicine)—to all support his endowed scholarship.

"I feel strongly about helping young people starting out in medical careers. Students of this South Jersey school deserve every opportunity to realize their goals," said Senator Maressa. "I hope to make endowed scholarships for SOM a popular concept among alumni and the business community. I'd like to know that the school will be supported well into the future."

To find out more about how you can endow a scholarship at SOM, contact June Hampson, PhD, vice president for development, at (856) 566-6300 or at [hampsoju@umdnj.edu](mailto:hampsoju@umdnj.edu).



*(l-r) Senator Joseph A. Maressa and Interim Dean Thomas Cavalieri*

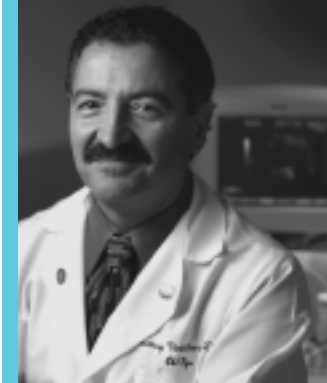
*To further strengthen its commitment to the city of Newark and to UMDNJ, Turner Construction Company donated \$100,000 to support the New Jersey Medical School-University Hospital Cancer Center. Here, Thomas V. Reilly, vice president and general manager, Turner Construction Company; Bruce Vladeck, interim president, and Harvey Ozer, MD, director and core researcher at the Cancer Center, hold the plaque to be posted in the lobby of the building.*



*Dr. Arthur Caplan, world-renowned ethicist, presented the ethics lecture in the first annual Dr. Cynthia Jean Stolman Endowed Lectureship in Medical Ethics, created with gifts in Dr. Stolman's honor following her death last year. Lara Stolman-Watzky, the Stolmans' daughter, and her husband Michael Watzky made a \$50,000 gift toward the lectureship;*

*an additional \$50,000 was donated by her husband, Dr. Lewis Stolman, and other family and friends. Pictured (l-r) are Dr. Lewis Stolman, Dr. Arthur Caplan, Dr. Robert L. Johnson, interim dean of New Jersey Medical School, Lara Stolman-Watzky and Michael Watzky.*

## Faculty Support First OB/GYN Endowed Chair



*Anthony Vintzileos, MD*



*Cande Ananth, PhD*

Most of us think that healthcare and its issues begin at the time of a baby's birth. Recent research, however, suggests that chronic adult diseases such as hypertension, diabetes and cardiovascular conditions have their origins in the prenatal period prior to birth.

Anthony M. Vintzileos, MD, professor and chair of the department of obstetrics, gynecology & reproductive sciences and Cande V. Ananth, PhD, MPH, associate professor and director of the division of epidemiology and biostatistics, both at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School (RWJMS), have focused their research over the past several years on prenatal health and high-risk maternal conditions. Their work has received national and international recognition.

However, given the gradual, but definite, reduction in state and federal research funding, both physicians feel it is critical to develop an endowed chair in OB/GYN in order to maintain and expand these research pursuits in this important field of human development.

To achieve that goal, Drs. Ananth and Vintzileos, along with several of their colleagues at RWJMS, have decided to establish an endowed chair for the OB/GYN Department to build the clinical and research infrastructure so that it may continue to conduct new and exciting research in prenatal and women's health.

What makes this endowed chair most unusual is that it will be established by members of the OB/GYN Department, clearly demonstrating their commitment to the department and their field. Thus far, \$40,000 has been pledged by the OB/GYN faculty toward the chair.

For more information, contact Denise Gavala, senior director of development, at (732) 235-5109 or via email at [gavaladp@umdnj.edu](mailto:gavaladp@umdnj.edu).

## Foundation News

Samantha Merker is a new Gift Processor at the Foundation. Ms. Merker will be responsible for processing all donations made to the Foundation. Prior to joining the Foundation, she worked at Prime Time Plus in Neptune, NJ. Ms. Merker can be reached at (732)235-6139 or at [merkersl@umdnj.edu](mailto:merkersl@umdnj.edu).

## West Coast Group Supports NJMS Research

Why would a group of parents from the west coast of the United States form a nonprofit organization to raise money to support research being done in a laboratory in Newark, NJ?

Because Aimee, the four-year-old daughter of Jeff and Michele Milota of Sacramento, California, and other children, suffer from an extremely rare disorder called Xeroderma Pigmentosum, (XP), and W. Clark Lambert, MD, PhD, a professor in the department of pathology and laboratory medicine at New Jersey Medical School, is preparing to open the only lab in the country that could conduct definitive testing to confirm whether a patient has XP.

XP is a genetic disease in which flawed genes cause a person to be extremely sensitive to the damaging effects of ultraviolet radiation. For children like Aimee, identifying the disease early is crucial to their survival. They need to be protected from exposure to sunlight and even too-bright indoor lighting—just a few minutes of direct exposure can be dangerous. Undiagnosed and untreated, XP can lead to the early onset of skin cancer and blindness.

To help others who have children with XP, the Milotas and four other families created a nonprofit organization called the XP Family Support Group, which has raised \$40,000 for Dr. Lambert's research through baseball games, walk-a-thons, golf tournaments and other events.

“Dr. Lambert is one of the top XP doctors in the United States,” Ms. Milota said. “His lab and research are so important because without them, people would have to go out of the country for genetic testing.”

In addition to fundraising, the XP Support Group promotes public awareness of XP, gives grants for UV-protective equipment and products and runs weekend retreats for families that have children with XP.

“We are striving to make a difference in the lives of children with XP,” said Ms. Milota. “Supporting Dr. Lambert's research gives us an opportunity to do that.”

For more information or to support Dr. Lambert's XP research, contact Liz Ketterlinus, vice president for development at the Foundation of UMDNJ, at (973) 972-2486 or [ketterel@umdnj.edu](mailto:ketterel@umdnj.edu).



*Michele Milota, Dr. Lambert, and children with XP visited Disneyland during the first annual XP Family Support Group Meeting.*

*Posing for a photo are: (l-r) Mary Puryear, program officer, The Prudential Foundation; Todd Johnson & Kenyetta Garland, former students; Mitch Rosen, director of the office of public health practice; Donald Killinger, New York City district council of carpenters and Gabriella Morris, president of The Prudential Foundation.*



The Prudential Foundation renewed its support with a grant of \$100,000 for the Newark Brownfields Minority Worker Training Programs administered by the UMDNJ-School of Public Health. The program trains underemployed or unemployed minority men and women from the Newark area in the skills required to secure union or private contractor jobs in the environmental clean-up and construction industries.



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