



OUTLOOK

A Publication of The Foundation of The University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey

SOM Receives \$2 Million For Research Chair



(l-r) Rick Vincent, president, Osteopathic Heritage Foundation; J. Richard Costin, DO, chairman, Osteopathic Heritage Foundation; R. Michael Gallagher, DO, dean, School of Osteopathic Medicine and Thomas Cavalieri, DO, first holder of the Osteopathic Heritage Endowed Chair for Primary Care Research

In recognition of the excellent programs offered through the UMDNJ–School of Osteopathic Medicine (SOM), the Osteopathic Heritage Foundation of Columbus, Ohio, has awarded \$2 million to establish the Osteopathic Heritage Foundation Endowed Chair in Primary Care Research at the school.

The gift will be used by SOM’s NJ Institute for Successful Aging to further research in the fields of aging and osteopathic principles and practices. Thomas Cavalieri, DO, the founding director of the Institute and professor and chair of the department of medicine, will be the first holder of the chair.

The Osteopathic Heritage Foundation funds projects designed to improve health and quality of life through education, research and service consistent with its osteopathic heritage.

“The research advanced through this endowed chair will benefit individuals far beyond New Jersey, advance knowledge throughout the osteopathic profession and lead to improvements in osteopathic healthcare,” said Rick Vincent, president and CEO of the Osteopathic Heritage Foundation. “The Foundation is impressed with the design of the endowment activities, the selection of Dr. Cavalieri to lead these activities and the commitments made to the endowment by the University and the State of New Jersey. We are very proud of this partnership.”

As part of the Foundation of UMDNJ’s newly instituted 20% matching program, an additional \$400,000 from the Foundation of UMDNJ will be added to this endowment. Gifts eligible for the match must be endowed gifts of \$2 million or more, coming from a single donor, payable within two years and benefiting an individual, department, center or institute that is a UMDNJ entity.

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Three South Jersey Groups Fund Latino Health Initiative



Chris Myers, RN, nurse practitioner at St. Luke's Catholic Medical Services, treats Hiram and Rosa Ramirez

The Latino population of Camden numbers more than 31,000; estimates suggest that 10 percent of this population is diabetic and about one-third of those are undiagnosed.

Thanks to the generosity of three South Jersey organizations—The Danellie Foundation, Campbell Soup Foundation and St. Lawrence Cement—Latino residents in Camden who have diabetes or will be diagnosed with diabetes can continue to have access to needed care and education through St. Luke's Catholic Medical Services.

Funds from these three organizations will allow a bilingual nurse practitioner at St. Luke's to continue to serve this population by providing diabetic patients with the skills required for successful day-to-day management of their disease. The nurse, who began working at St. Luke's in this capacity last year, appears to be making a difference, according to studies.

For example, data indicate that for patients who have been tracked for six months, 30 percent had been hospitalized during the six-month period prior to the baseline study. However, none of them has been hospitalized during the six months that they have been receiving diabetes education through the program. In addition, more than 30 percent of the patients have visited ophthalmologists and more than 35 percent have visited podiatrists during the past six months (compared with 15 percent and 10 percent at baseline).

"Words cannot express how grateful we are to these local organizations for their support of a position that positively impacts the health of our Latino residents," said Thomas Cavaliere, DO, professor and chair, internal medicine, School of Osteopathic Medicine. "Their generosity has allowed us to make a real difference in the lives of South Jersey residents."

If you are interested in supporting this program, contact June Hampson, PhD, vice president of development, at (856) 566-6300 or hampsoju@umdnj.edu.

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Rohrer Foundation Funds Medical Research

In its continuing efforts to support the needs of South Jersey residents, the William G. Rohrer Charitable Foundation has made a generous gift of \$500,000 to the UMDNJ–School of Osteopathic Medicine’s Center for Aging.

The donation will establish a permanent endowment to fund clinical and biomedical research as the center expands to become the New Jersey Institute for Successful Aging.

“A gift to the Institute for Successful Aging seems a perfect way to pay tribute to my father, who, in his lifetime, was interested in programs that would help seniors live more productive lives,” explained Linda Rohrer, one of the trustees of the Foundation and daughter of Bill Rohrer. “This project would have been dear to his heart, so I am very happy our Foundation has a chance to support the Institute.”

The Center for Aging has been a nationally recognized leader in geriatric education and a unique center of clinical care for the elderly in South Jersey. For the past six years, U.S. News and World Report has ranked it among the top 20 geriatric education programs in the nation.

“This endowment will significantly enhance the Center for Aging’s ability to move aging research to the next level,” explained Anita Chopra, MD, director of the Center.

Thomas Cavalieri, DO, the founding director of the Center and professor and chair of the department of medicine, is leading the initiative to create the statewide Institute for Successful Aging.

“This award will enhance the Institute’s statewide mission of improving the quality of life of New Jersey’s elderly by promoting successful aging,” said Dr. Cavalieri.



Linda Rohrer with photo of her late father, William G. Rohrer

Vox Medica Helps Low Literacy Patients

The Center for Patient Education and Health Literacy, a foundation formed by the Philadelphia-based national healthcare communications group Vox Medica, awarded its first grant ever to the UMDNJ-School of Osteopathic Medicine's Department of Family Medicine.



(l-r) Frank Filippetto, DO, vice chair, SOM department of family medicine; Hikmah Gardiner, trustee of the Center for Patient Education and Health Literacy; Carman Ciervo, DO, chair, SOM department of family medicine; Eve Dryer, president of public relations, Vox Medica; Claudia Switala and Sima Bennett, SOM department of family medicine.

The \$25,000 grant award and its accompanying \$25,000 in marketing communications support services have been used to develop two standardized patient scenarios to help medical students learn how to communicate more effectively with patients who have low literacy levels. The program, which will be conducted as part of SOM's state-of-the-art Clinical and Education Assessment Center (CEAC), will give students the ability to better address the healthcare needs of an increasingly diverse U.S. population.

Vox Medica is the third largest privately owned healthcare communications company in the country. It created the new foundation to promote health literacy by supporting research and programs that create greater availability of accurate and easily understandable healthcare information for patients. The foundation will award one grant annually.

"Our goal is to support programs that have a long-lasting impact on the community and that also serve as best practices in encouraging similar initiatives to take root," said Eve Dryer, president, Vox Medica's Health Care Public Relations Group. "This program will help train the next generation of doctors to better meet the needs of patients from special populations, helping them live longer, healthier lives."

In addition to the grant money, Vox Medica Health Care Public Relations Group will provide in-kind services to support the production and promotion of the health literacy initiatives.

To learn more about the program or how to support it, contact June Hampson, PhD, vice president of development, at (856) 566-6300 or at hampsoju@umdnj.edu.

Scholarship Funded for Students of Armenian Descent

As the dean of the School of Osteopathic Medicine (SOM), R. Michael Gallagher, DO, is always looking for ways to help students at the school.

However, helping physicians of the future was only one of three reasons that led Dean Gallagher and his wife Joanne to establish the Misak and Sabel Semerjian and Robert and Sirvart M. Gallagher Endowed Scholarship at SOM.

The second reason was that naming the scholarship allowed Dean Gallagher to honor his parents and grandparents. His grandparents were survivors of the Armenian genocide by the Turkish government during WWI.

And third, because he could designate the scholarship for students of Armenian descent, which is believed to be the country's first such scholarship offered by a public institution.

"I believe this scholarship, which will allow Armenian medical students to pursue their goals of helping all people, will also serve as a fitting tribute to their Armenian ancestors," said Dean Gallagher.

Because the scholarship is endowed, it will be awarded in perpetuity to qualified students.

For more information about how you can support this scholarship or other students at SOM, contact June Hampson, PhD, vice president of development, at (856) 566-6300 or via e-mail at hampsoju@umdnj.edu.



The Gallagher Family.

Back row (l-r):

Angie Von Pageler,

R. Michael Gallagher II,

Marta Gallagher,

Joanne Gallagher,

Dean R. Michael

Gallagher, DO and

Tracey Gallagher

Front row (l-r):

Hrant Mampourian

and Sirvart M. Gallagher

SOM Receives \$2 Million

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For more information about gifts to the School of Osteopathic Medicine, contact June Hampson, PhD, vice president of development, at (856) 566-6300 or via e-mail at hampsoju@umdnj.edu. To learn more about the Osteopathic Heritage Foundation, visit its web site at www.osteopathicheritage.org.

New Jersey Foundation for Aging Awards Matching Grant



Melvin Wallerstein, president of the Wallerstein Foundation (center left), attended the BAM session presented by (l-r) Kara Schmidt, PhD, neuropsychologist; Stephen Scheinthal, DO, director of the Memory Assessment Program and Nancy Alterman, LCSW, geriatric social worker.

The New Jersey Foundation for Aging has awarded a \$15,000 matching grant to the Brain and Memory Program (BAM) offered through the UMDNJ–School of Osteopathic Medicine’s Center for Aging.

The BAM Program is research-based and focused on maintaining brain health so that older adults can maintain their independence for as long as possible.

The gift, which matched contributions to the Center for Aging by the Wallerstein Foundation for Geriatric Life Improvement and ShopRite LPGA, will provide 16 sessions on wellness and how to maintain brain health. Programs will be offered for approximately 500

adults at sites throughout the state, with the majority in southern New Jersey; principally Camden, Gloucester and Burlington counties.

“Through grantmaking to address unmet needs, The New Jersey Foundation for Aging works to improve and expand new and innovative approaches in the delivery of services that enable older adults to live in the community with independence and dignity,” explained Grace Egan, executive director.

The Foundation is the only statewide public charity focused on aging in New Jersey.

For more information about how to support the BAM program, contact June Hampson, vice president for the Foundation of UMDNJ, at (856) 566-6300 or via e-mail at hampsoju@umdnj.edu.

Honors

The School of Osteopathic Medicine finished first among 20 osteopathic medical schools nationwide for the amount of research funding provided by the National Institutes of Health for FY 2004. The research programs receiving NIH grants in FY 2004 included research in the areas of child sexual and physical abuse, aging, oxidative stress and pregnancy, neurosensory signaling, cancer research and other areas of basic science.

Congratulations to **Ronald E. Ellis, PhD**, associate professor, molecular biology; **Gary S. Goldberg, PhD**, associate professor, molecular biology; **Michael F. Henry, PhD**, assistant professor, molecular biology; and **Dmitry Temiakov, PhD**, assistant professor, cell biology, all of SOM and **Meena Khandelwal, MD**, associate professor, obstetrics & gynecology, RWJMS-Camden, who received

Board Formed To Support the New NJ CARES Institute

According to New Jersey CARES Institute Co-director Martin Finkel, DO, more than 7,900 children a year are victims of abuse or neglect in southern New Jersey alone. To help provide treatment for those children and their families, the Center for Children's Support in Stratford recently received a \$1.5 million grant from the Department of Human Services, allowing it to expand into the New Jersey CARES Institute (Child Abuse Research, Education and Service) to help better meet the needs of neglected children not only regionally, but to set standards of care statewide.

To further help advance the Institute's programs, the Stratford staff of the Foundation of UMDNJ helped to establish a Board of Advisors to secure additional philanthropic funding for its widening scope of services. The new board will focus on garnering private financial resources for research and program activities, endowed chairs, and capital expansion. "I did not hesitate when I was asked to join the

Board of Advisors," said Donald Sico, president of HealthSense, Inc. and board chair. "There is no higher calling, in my view, than lending a hand to those who are too small to reach up themselves."

The Board recently received a kick-off gift of \$25,000 from Roger and Rebecca Fine.

"The New Jersey CARES Institute is an important resource not only for South Jersey, but for those throughout the state and country who deal with issues surrounding child abuse and neglect," said Mr. Fine, retired vice president and general counsel of Johnson & Johnson and chair of the Foundation of UMDNJ board.

"Rebecca and I are pleased to support the Institute's work."

For more information about how you can help fight child abuse and neglect in New Jersey, contact Farah Stith, director of development, at (856) 566-5072 or via e-mail at stithfa@umdnj.edu.



Esther Deblinger, PhD, co-director, New Jersey CARES Institute; Donald Sico, board chair; Martin Finkel, DO, co-director, New Jersey CARES Institute

grants awarded through Annual Research Grants program operated by the Foundation of UMDNJ. Since the program's inception, the Foundation has awarded over \$20 million to support outstanding scientists at the University.

James S. White, PhD, associate professor, department of cell biology at SOM, has received the Lindback Distinguished Teaching Award. Funded by the Christian R. and Mary F. Lindback Foundation, this award recognizes a full-time, permanent faculty member with an excellent record in teaching.

Robert Nagele, PhD, associate professor, department of microbiology at SOM, received the Excellence in Teaching Award, presented by the Foundation of UMDNJ to recognize members of the UMDNJ faculty for outstanding teaching during the academic year. Recipients are nominated by their deans.

Golf Outing Supports Scholarship

Pictured l to r: Bernie Parent, Philadelphia Flyers Hall of Fame goalie; Gary Schlosser, vice president government banking, Commerce Bank; James Golubieski, president, Foundation of UMDNJ; Robert Curley, III, regional vice president, Commerce Bank; and Jack Tarditi, vice chairman, Commerce Insurance Services.



For the past five years, Commerce Bank has sponsored the annual Southern New Jersey Scholarships Golf Outing, which provides scholarships for students in South Jersey enrolled in the School of Osteopathic Medicine and the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School-Camden.



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