

The Vibe @

Summer 2011

The Graduate School of Nursing

Greetings and welcome

to the Summer issue of *The Vibe*! Our academic year has come full circle and we are pleased to share with you some of the striking achievements, memorable moments and upcoming events that reflect the experience, values and mission of the students, faculty and alumni of UMass Medical School.

In this issue, we explore how the Graduate School of Nursing is preparing nurses for expanded responsibilities with its first Clinical Research Management Certificate program, which is training nurses to take a leadership role in conducting complex clinical trials. You'll also be introduced to the new president of the University of Massachusetts and learn about the life-changing experience of an alumnus who transformed his own experience with cancer into a career in oncology nursing.

Check out event listings and opportunities to stay connected with fellow alumni. If you have news you'd like to share or have suggestions for future issues of *The Vibe*, drop us a note at alumni@umassmed.edu or call the Office of Alumni Relations at 508-856-8300. We look forward to hearing from you!

My best wishes for a relaxing and enjoyable summer!

Jill Terrien, MS'97, PhD'07
Chair, Alumni Association



Students Fulfill Core Mission of Service in the Dominican Republic

SPRING BREAK 2011 was an opportunity for a team of 45 students and preceptors from the Graduate School of Nursing and the School of Medicine to travel to the Caribbean. But instead of a vacation on the beach, they deepened their clinical skills, providing care in a challenging setting to more than a thousand individuals in the Dominican Republic.

"This trip has become a legacy project," said Michele Pugnaire, MD, SOM senior associate dean for educational affairs and professor of family medicine & community health, who leads UMMS' clinical partnership with Good Samaritan Hospital in

▲ GSN student Caitlin Jolda and SOM student Mike Grant team up to care for Dominican patients

La Romana, the Dominican capital. Launched in 2006 by the School of Medicine International Medicine Interest Group, the service trip has grown into a multifaceted educational experience that begins with months of planning and training.

"The Dominican trip was an incredibly rewarding and mind-opening experience," said Caitlin Jolda, GSN-GEP. "The Haitian immigrants were so welcoming and thankful for the basic

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New President Takes Helm of UMass System

ROBERT L. CARET, PHD, a chemist with a robust record of creating academic growth, building business partnerships and diversifying student bodies, will become president of the University of Massachusetts system July 1.

"It is an honor to have been asked to lead this world-class and world-renowned university system," President-elect Caret said. "I look forward to building upon its tradition of excellence in academics, research and public service." He will replace UMass President Jack M. Wilson, who will become the Distinguished Professor of Higher Education, Emerging Technologies and Innovation at UMass Lowell.

Dr. Caret's leadership at two state universities positions him uniquely to lead the UMass system. After 21 years at Towson University, Dr. Caret left in 1995 to assume the presidency of San Jose State University, where he helped reinvigorate the campus before returning to Towson



▲ Robert L. Caret, PhD

University in 2003 as president. Dr. Caret received his PhD in organic chemistry from the University of New Hampshire and has authored articles on chemistry, chemical education and higher education in addition to textbooks in the fields of organic chemistry and allied health chemistry.

"We very much look forward to working with our new President, as together we build upon and enrich the ways in which the university prepares our students to be the next generation of scholars, leaders and pioneers in a challenging and ever-changing world," said Chancellor Michael F. Collins. ■

THE POWER OF PARTICIPATION

We appreciate you...

our alumni for your thoughtful contributions to the alumni annual funds. Alumni support allows us to continue offering a high quality education that tuition and state funding alone cannot sustain. We are honored and grateful to count you among our donors.

On behalf of all the students who benefit from your annual support, thank you! We encourage you to continue your commitment to our mission at UMass Medical School—to advance the health and well-being of the people of the commonwealth and the world through pioneering education, research and health care delivery with our partner, UMass Memorial Health Care.

You may make a gift online at: <http://w3.umassmed.edu/OnlineDonation/> or send your contribution to UMass Medical School Development Office, 333 South Street, Shrewsbury, MA 01545.

Medical Mission Teaches... *Continued from page 1*

care that we could provide them during our clinics. It was a great opportunity to improve my nursing skills, collaborate with the medical students and gain a better understanding of what health care (or the lack of) is like in other parts of the world."

Students were divided into care teams that headed out each morning to the bateys—small villages on sugar cane plantations where workers live—to set up mobile clinics. Clinics consist of student-staffed stations that focus on different aspects of the visit, from intake to vitals, patient interview and diagnosis. Preceptors, most of whom are physicians and nurse practitioners from UMMS and UMass Memorial Medical Center, circulate throughout the clinic and review and sign off on all cases; local volunteers serve as interpreters.

Mike Grant, SOM '14, is one of six

team members who organized the trip. "The experience helped me with a broad scope of clinical skills—the interview process, physiology, prescribing," said Grant. "You're on your own. It pushes you to know what the next step is and you become more relaxed after the week's practice." Grant also noted that one of the most valuable learning experiences was working alongside nursing students on the care teams, because it exposed him to a fresh point of view and reinforced the interdisciplinary nature of medicine.

The full scope of the trip reflects students' commitment, not only in planning the logistics but also in arranging for funding and setting the stage for a sustained program as groups of students graduate. In addition to recruiting and training members of the class behind

them to take over when they move on, the second-year medical students who do the bulk of the planning also undertake a fundraising campaign. This year's team raised \$60,000 to support the trip costs, including all medications the team brought. They also developed educational components to prepare students for the medical mission and compiled a patient database from previous trips, from which they created a formulary for gathering supplies and medications.

What began with a small group of students interested in experiencing international medicine has evolved into a medical mission that will continue to enrich the lives of the medical and nursing students and preceptors who participate and bring medical care to patients who otherwise have none. ■

In Training: High-Level Clinical Research Managers

NURSES ARE JOINING other management-level clinical research staff to deepen the skills required to manage the complexity of clinical trials as part of UMass Medical School's first Clinical Research Management (CRM) Certificate program. The program's goal is to develop an experienced workforce that considers all aspects of clinical research, including data management, feasibility and ethical considerations.

"Clinical trial managers and coordinators are the front line for the safety of human subjects in clinical trials," said Carol Bova, PhD, associate professor of nursing and medicine, who co-directs the CRM course with Sheila Noone, PhD, assistant vice provost for clinical research and assistant professor of obstetrics & gynecology. A member of the Institutional Review Board at UMMS, Dr. Bova conducts

National Institutes of Health (NIH) funded clinical investigations.

Bova and Noone worked together in the 1980s during the HIV/AIDS epidemic, administering trials of the experimental drugs that have since turned HIV infection into a manageable chronic condition. "Back then there was no formal training," recalled Bova.

UMass Memorial research nurse Karen Berni-Giarusso, RN, was drawn by the course's advanced level. "Understanding the feasibility of protocols will help us pick studies with a better chance of completion and success," she explained. "Carol and Sheila both have a wealth of knowledge to share."

Ultimately, having high-level clinical research managers will drive UMMS's ability to conduct increasingly sophisticated investigations. ■



Welcome, Class of 2011!

GSN's Alumni Association welcomed the 47 members of the Class of 2011 during its annual graduation breakfast June 3. Graduates and their guests were among 200 participants, including preceptors, alumni and faculty. UMMS Chancellor Michael F. Collins offered congratulations to the graduates, and GSN Dean Paulette Seymour-Route presented awards and scholarships. A class photo capped off the event, which was followed by the continuing education symposium, "The Institute of Medicine Report on the Future of Nursing--Leading Change, Advancing Health: Implications and Opportunities." ■

SEPTEMBER

GSN Pinning Ceremony

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2011

6:00 – 7:30 PM

Faculty Conference Room/School Lobby
UMass Medical School

Convocation/Investiture

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2011

4:00 – 6:00 PM

Campus Green
UMass Medical School

13th Annual UMass Medicine Cancer Walk

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2011

10:00 AM

UMass Medical School

DECEMBER

UMass Medicine Winter Ball

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2011

Mechanics Hall, Worcester, MA

For more information about these events, contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 508-856-8300, or e-mail alumni@umassmed.edu or visit www.NetworkUMass.com/Medical.

Governor Paul Cellucci Announces Endowment for ALS Research

After revealing in January that he had amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), former Governor Paul Cellucci announced in May that he is raising money for an endowment at UMass Medical School that will fund ALS research led by Robert H. Brown Jr., DPhil, MD, chair of neurology and Governor Cellucci's physician. An internationally known researcher and physician leading the quest to cure neurodegenerative and neuromuscular diseases like ALS, Dr. Brown's 1993 discovery of the first ALS-related gene was the seed from which most current ALS research has grown.

Recognizing the need for scientists to have the ability to pursue new ideas quickly and continue promising research, the School has created the UMass ALS Champion Fund to support ALS research. Visit the UMass ALS Champion Fund website at www.umassals.com for more information and to contribute to the fund. ■



Alumni Profile | Rich Boyajian, NP

Program: DNP

Year of Graduation: 2010

Life changed for Rich Boyajian, NP, in 1996, and his career soon followed. Before that year and his chronic myelogenous leukemia (CML) diagnosis, his work focused on home care nursing. "I worked a lot!" he said. "I had become a manager for a home care company, but I hated being a manager and went back to the field and eventually started my own business, too, doing assessments for long-term health insurance coverage."

Becoming a cancer patient opened his eyes to a new perspective on nursing, as he fought through chemotherapy, a lifesaving bone marrow transplant from an unrelated donor, five weeks of hospitalization and

many complications throughout intense follow-up. "I spent a lot of time at Dana Farber, and oncology nursing tipped the scale for me," Boyajian said. "It was amazing to see the respect the oncology nurses earned from the physicians. I saw the profession of nursing and said, 'I want to do that!'" He pursued the GSN's NP program, particularly for the cancer prevention and control subspecialty. "It was a great experience, and I had a great NP mentor, Kim Noonan. After graduation, I waited for a position at Dana Farber and was hired to run immunology clinical trials, to take care of bone marrow transplant patients, run gene vaccine trials and lots of other fun work," he said. Today, he is clinical director of the institute's Adult Cancer Survivorship Program

and is part of a team that has developed standardized cancer survivors' treatment summaries and care plans—a project he says is slowly changing the way oncology works with survivors. "It helps remove the patient's fear of the unknown after treatment and instead of patients being passive, they can be more proactive, know what symptoms to look for, what they are at risk for and know what their follow up will be," Boyajian explained. ■

Anyone with news to share is encouraged to send his or her class notes to alumni@umassmed.edu. You may also submit notes by visiting the UMass Alumni Online Community at www.NetworkUMass.com/Medical and click on "Class Notes."