

Dean's Newsletter

April 19, 2004

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Dean's Newsletter – More to Come

First, thanks to everyone who filled out the recent survey regarding the Dean's Newsletter. Some 533 completed surveys were returned, 43% of which contained additional comments or suggestions. It is hard to know the actual denominator other than the number of names on the email distribution list – and using that the response rate to the survey was approximately 30%.

The bottom line is that 98% of the respondents felt the Dean's Newsletter was "Highly Valuable" (76%) or "Somewhat Valuable" (22%) as a communication document. Moreover, 88% of the respondents read the Newsletter either every time or most of the time that it was sent. Further, 88% rated its quality "high" or "superior".

Most of the comments focused on the length of the Newsletter, although 54% of the overall respondents indicated that it was the "right length". That said, a number of helpful suggestions were made for reducing the length or frequency of the Newsletter or using technologies to make it more readable.

One of the most consistent comments was that readers appreciated this as a communication vehicle directly from the Dean – and strongly indicated a desire to have that continue. I am happy to do so. I will explore and evaluate other ways to make the presentation of the Dean's Newsletter more attractive and readable but I will also continue to make it a personalized communication vehicle.

Thank You From First Year Medical Students

Last week a Letter to “Administration, Professors, Preceptors, Facilitators and those involved in planning, implementing and supporting our education” arrived signed by 48 members of the First Year Class. It was surely welcomed by all those who have worked diligently on helping to construct and implement the New Stanford Curriculum. Importantly, the letter was accompanied by very helpful comments and suggestions focusing frequently on the benefits of the reduced class time, better coordination and integration of classes, the new Scholarly Concentrations, advising and overall camaraderie and support within the School.

In turn, I would like to thank the students for being forthright, engaged committed to working as partners and colleagues in making the Stanford New Curriculum experience as strong and meaningful as it can be.

Stanford Institute for the Environment

At our Senior Dean’s Meeting on April 8th, Drs. Jeff Koseff, Gary Schoolnik, and Leigh Johnson offered an update on the plans underway for the Stanford Institute for the Environment, which will be one of the major interdisciplinary themes guiding Stanford during the next decade. The current mission of this important initiative is as follows: *Spanning the University, the Stanford Institute for the Environment will promote an environmentally sound and sustainable world by developing creative solutions through these challenges through the integration of science, technology and policy; educating the next generation of leaders and problem solvers; and actively collaborating and facilitating dialogue with key public and private leaders and the broader community.*

While considerations about the environment understandably focus on topics like population, water, energy, agriculture, ecosystems, conservation and biodiversity, urban systems, industry, it is also important to remember that the environment and health are very closely linked. Indeed, most human ailments are the result of the interaction of simple or complex genetic traits and predispositions with environmental exposures or risk factors.

Dr. Gary Schoolnik, Professor of Medicine (Infectious Diseases) and of Microbiology and Immunology, is a member of the Task Force for the Institute for the Environment as a representative from the School of Medicine. He has clearly recognized the importance of this initiative to environmental health, ecological medicine and medical geology. Based on that Dr. Schoolnik has posited several important fields of study that link the environment and medicine. These include such areas as:

- ***Environmental toxicology*** - which considers disease as a function of toxin exposure that can be mediated by genetic factors and be manifested as clinical disease or syndromes.
- ***Infectious diseases*** – which can be influenced by climate, landscape, insect or other vectors and intermediate hosts – and which can be affected by global transportation, immigration and commerce.
- ***Human physical and intellectual development*** – which can be impacted by food, water, agricultural and commercial practices, and toxin exposure.
- ***Population and crowding*** – which impact on disease risk and survival.

- **Biodiversity** – and its impact on drug discovery.

These and other related areas broach a wide array of medical disciplines and research topics and offer new opportunities for training as well as for impacting human disease on a global basis. The Stanford Institute for the Environment is at a nascent state and I would strongly encourage interested members of the Medical School community to contact Professors Schoolnik (schoolni@cmgm.stanford.edu) or Koseff (koseff@stanford.edu) with additional comments or suggestions. I think there is a wonderful opportunity for our faculty and students to help shape the future of this very exciting new Institute.

The Match Continues (Progress Made on the Lawsuit Challenging the National Internship Match)

As many of you know, the National Internship Match was challenged a couple of years ago by three former residents who contested that it violated antitrust law in a suit brought against a number of teaching hospitals across the country including Stanford Hospital & Clinics. Last week, due to a successful advocacy effort that involved, among others, the Association of American Medical Colleges, the American Hospital Association and officials from Stanford including Stanford University Hospital CEO Martha Marsh, the US Congress approved legislative provision that exempts residency matching programs and their sponsors from antitrust laws. The President is expected to sign this legislation that includes the match provision this week. While the group supporting the match system believes that this legislation will help lead to a successful conclusion of the lawsuit, the provision may be subject to future legal and legislative challenges. I will keep the community posted.

Women Faculty Would Like More Flexible Work Schedules

During my first year at Stanford, Dr. David Stevenson and I appointed a committee, chaired by Dr. Mary Lake Polan, to assess the status of women in medicine and the biosciences at Stanford. Dr. Polan and her colleagues have now reported the results of their survey in several settings (<http://deansnewsletter.stanford.edu/>) and have now published their findings in the April issue of *Academic Medicine* (2004; 79:319-325).

In their study, 163 (53%) of the women faculty at Stanford School of Medicine identified the need for greater flexibility in the work environment as their highest ranked need. They were especially concerned that women faculty with young children have flexible schedules without negative consequences. In addition, periodic sabbatical leaves from clinical and administrative duties and departmental mentoring for academic career development were also cited as key needs.

Since this report, we have made some progress in implementing some of these initiatives. However, I would say that we still have a long way to go to truly make the work environment as compatible with work-family balance as we would all like. This must be an ongoing and continued initiative and it is important that we continue to assess our progress and improve our

outcomes. Any additional thoughts you have would be most welcome.

In Memoriam: Dr. Robert W.P. Cutler

I am sorry to say that Robert W.P. Cutler, M.D., Professor Emeritus of Neurology and Neurological Sciences and former Senior Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs in the School of Medicine, passed away on April 12, 2004 at his home in Livermore, California. Dr. Cutler received his undergraduate degree from Harvard College and his medical degree from Tufts Medical School. He completed his medical training in neurology at the University of Chicago Clinics. Prior to his arrival at Stanford, Dr. Cutler served on the faculty at Harvard Medical School and the University of Chicago. During his tenure on the faculty at Stanford, he played many administrative roles, including service as the first Associate Dean for Medical Education and later as Senior Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs. Dr. Cutler retired from Stanford in January, 2000. He is perhaps most recently known for the publication of his book entitled “The Mysterious Death of Jane Stanford” that received considerable notoriety – at least locally – during the past year.

There will be a memorial service for Dr. Cutler on Tuesday, May 11 at 4:00pm at the Stanford Memorial Church. Also, in lieu of flowers, the family asks that contributions be made to the Regional Parks Botanic Garden (c/o Tilden Regional Park Berkeley, CA 94708-2396).

Welcomes

I am pleased to welcome **Dr. Ann James** who is joining the Office of the General Counsel as a Senior University Counsel representing the Stanford Medical Center, primarily the School of Medicine. She will also provide advice and counsel on healthcare issues to the Stanford Hospitals. She holds a BA in Biology from Radford College in Virginia, a Ph.D. in Medical Microbiology and Immunology from Baylor College of Medicine, and a J.D. from the University of Houston. Ann is replacing Rodney Johnson who served the School and University so admirably during the past 24 years.

I also want to welcome back **Mr. David Glen**, formerly the Director of Principal Gifts for Stanford University, who will return from retirement on a part time basis to provide strategic advice and guidance to the Office of Medical Development during its important transition while we search for a new Director.

Honors and Awards

- **Dr. Stuart Kim**, Professor of Developmental Biology, has been named this years recipient of the prestigious Ho-Am Foundation Award for “scholars and researchers who have made outstanding achievements...and present exemplary models for the academic community” The Ho-Am Prize was founded in 1990.
- **Dr. Andy Fire**, Professor of Pathology, has been named the 2004 recipient of the prestigious Dr. HP Heineken Prize for Biochemistry and Biophysics, from the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences.

- **Dr. Jeffrey Axelrod**, Assistant Professor of Pathology and **Dr. Michael Longaker**, Deane P. and Louise Mitchell Professor in the School of Medicine, were elected this past weekend to the American Society for Clinical Investigation.
- **Dr. Larry Leung**, Professor of Medicine (Hematology), was elected into the Association of American Physicians.
- **Dr. Olivia Martinez**, Associate Professor of Surgery, has been named the recipient of the Fujisawa Basic Science Achievement Award by the American Society of Transplantation. The award honors investigators at the associate professor level who have made substantial contributions to the field of transplantation medicine. Dr. Martinez will receive the award at the American Transplant Congress in May.

Please join me in congratulating these faculty members for their wonderful achievements.

Honorable Mention

Congratulations to Cheri Blauwet, first year medical student here at Stanford, who took first place in the women's wheelchair division race at the 108th Boston Marathon in a time of 1:39:53.

Announcement

The 2004 Beckman Symposium on Cancer will be held on Friday, April 30th from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., in the Fairchild Auditorium beginning with breakfast in the Fairchild lobby. There will be a host of distinguished speakers including Brian Druker, Patrick Brown, Napoleon Ferrara, Elaine Fuchs, Stanton Glantz, Lee Hartwell, Vicki Lundblad and Nicola Pavletich. This will be an outstanding symposium and it is open to the public, no registration is required.

Appointments and Promotions

- **Ranjana Advani** has been appointed to Assistant Professor of Medicine at the Stanford University Medical Center, effective 4/1/2004 to 3/31/2007.
- **Edward Damrose** has been appointed to Assistant Professor of Otolaryngology at the Stanford University Medical Center, effective 5/1/2004 to 4/30/2007.
- **James Fann** has been promoted to Associate Professor of Cardiothoracic Surgery at the Stanford University Medical Center, effective 5/1/2004 to 4/30/2009.
- **Lynne Huffman** has been promoted to Associate Professor (Research) of Pediatrics and Associate Professor (Research), by courtesy, of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, effective 4/1/2004 to 3/31/2010.
- **Stephen Huhn** has been promoted to Associate Professor of Neurosurgery and Associate Professor, by courtesy, of Pediatrics at the Stanford University Medical Center, effective 4/1/2004 to 3/31/2009.
- **John Lamberti** has been appointed to Associate Professor of Cardiothoracic Surgery at the Lucile Salter Packard Children's Hospital, effective 4/1/2004 to 3/31/2009.
- **Anna Messner** has been promoted to Associate Professor of Otolaryngology and of Pediatrics at the Stanford University Medical Center, effective 4/1/2004 to 3/31/2009.

- **Amin Milki** has been promoted to Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Stanford University Medical Center, effective 4/1/2004.
- **Jeffrey Norton** has been appointed to Professor of Surgery at the Stanford University Medical Center, effective 4/1/2004 to 3/31/2009.
- **Todd Pawlicki** has been reappointed to Assistant Professor of Radiation Oncology at the Stanford University Medical Center, effective 6/1/2004 to 5/31/2007.
- **Debra Safer** has been appointed to Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the Stanford University Medical Center, effective 5/1/2004 to 4/30/2007.
- **Steven Sanislo** has been reappointed Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology at the Stanford University Medical Center, effective 5/1/2004 to 4/30/2006.
- **Zijie Sun** has been promoted to Associate Professor (Research) of Urology and of Genetics, effective 4/1/2004 to 3/31/2010.
- **George Van Hare** has been promoted to Professor of Pediatrics at the Lucile Salter Packard Children's Hospital, effective 4/1/2004.