

Dean's Newsletter

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2008 Incoming Graduate Student Class is Selected

Most everyone will readily agree that the quality of the student body is the lifeblood of a university. We are fortunate at Stanford to attract among the most talented and creative students in the world. On May 20th the Biosciences at Stanford announced their incoming class for 2008 – and I have heard much acclaim from the department chairs about the overall quality of the students who will be joining Stanford graduate programs this fall.

This year 1289 students applied to one or more of Stanford's 18-degree granting basic science departments and interdisciplinary programs (IDPs). Two of these are housed in the School of Humanities and Sciences (Biology and Biophysics), but the admissions for all 18 are coordinated through a common application process. Bioengineering and Biomedical Informatics are handled separately from the Biosciences admission process. Based on the quality of the applicants 167 offers of admission were made (this was more than the number of slots available, but it recognized the fact that most of these applicants had multiple offers from other universities), and 98 accepted the offer (58 will be in the School of Medicine and 35 in Humanities and Sciences). This year's 56% yield is the second highest on record for Stanford Biosciences and is evidence of how highly students regard these programs. As in past years the greatest numbers of students come from Stanford, Harvard, UCSF, UC Berkeley and MIT, but overall

students were accepted from some 56 colleges and universities. The entering class also includes 19 international students as well as 14 students who are under-represented minorities (using the NIH definition). This is the most diverse Biosciences class on record – which, when coupled with the outstanding academic records of the students, makes this a banner year.

In addition to the Biosciences, the Department of Bioengineering had 428 applicants (391 for the PhD program and 37 for the Master of Science program). Of these, 15 students accepted an offer to attend the PhD program (3 of whom will defer), for a 57% yield. Three students will join the MS program. Of the 12 students who will be joining the PhD program this fall, six are women and two are underrepresented minorities.

I want to offer my special thanks to the basic science department chairs and IDP directors, faculty and student leaders for their important participation in the interview and selection process. Also thanks to Anika Green, Assistant Dean; John Bray, Assistant Dean; Ellen Porzig, Associate Dean; and John Pringle, Senior Associate Dean for Graduate Education, for their leadership as well as to Dr. Tenea Nelson (Genetics) and Dean's Office Staff members Velessa Peairs, Jennie Visitacion and Jayanthi Subramanina for their tremendous support during the application, interview and admissions process. And, of course, welcome to the 2008 incoming class of Bioscience graduate students!

Approval for a Stanford CTSA: Great News

On Wednesday May 28th we received the wonderful news that Stanford has been selected as one of 14 institutions to receive a CTSA (Clinical and Translational Science Award), which now links 38 academic health centers focused on fostering translational research and education (see: http://med.stanford.edu/news_releases/2008/may/CTSA.html). This award, selected through a rigorous peer review process, will provide \$30 million to Stanford over five years to focus on forging interdisciplinary connections between the medical school and medical center, the university and innovators in Silicon Valley. The Stanford CTSA is unique in that it will knit together interdisciplinary programs across the university, hopefully with a significant impact on faculty and trainees within and outside of the medical center. The crux of our effort will be the Stanford Center for Clinical and Translational Education and Research (SCCTER), an independent institute that will operate outside traditional school boundaries.

While a large number of individuals worked diligently on the CTSA application, I want to single out Dr. Harry Greenberg, Senior Associate Dean for Research and Joseph D. Grant Professor of Medicine, for his leadership in this effort. An enormous amount of vision, leadership, collaboration and community building was needed to bring this major program together – and Dr. Greenberg's role was key. He was joined by an impressive group of co-directors including Dr. Phil Lavori, PhD, Professor of Biostatistics and Chair of Health Research and Policy; Dr. Charles Prober, MD, Professor of Pediatrics and

Senior Associate Dean for Medical Student Education; Dr. Branimir Sikic, MD, Professor of Medicine; and Dr. David Stevenson, MD, Professor of Pediatrics as well as Vice Dean and Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.

Among the highlights of the CTSA proposal are the following:

1. Grants for early-stage research aimed at improving health, with priority given to interdisciplinary projects with researchers across the university.
2. Two “technology accelerator” programs, one for medical technology and the other for drugs and diagnostics. These programs will build on the Biodesign Program, which trains students and fellows in medicine, engineering and business to develop biomedical devices, and the SPARK program, which provides a year of funding for promising biomedical projects and mentoring by faculty with company experience.
3. Fellowships in technology transfer.
4. A community office to improve access to clinical trials and to increase the flow of information about the trials’ outcomes back to participants.
5. Expanded support for researchers undertaking a clinical trial, including guidance in trial design, clinical informatics, biostatistics, institutional and governmental regulatory process, and new resources for human genetics, tissue microarray histology and immune monitoring. This will help support the efforts of our already successful SPCTRM (Stanford/Packard Center for Translational Research in Medicine) program (see: <http://med.stanford.edu/spctrm/>), which is led by Dr. Steve Alexander, Professor of Pediatrics.
6. Administrative staff to coordinate activities, programs and institutes related to human health across the university. Among these are programs based at the medical school, such as the Masters of Medicine program, which gives PhD candidates exposure to clinical medicine, and the Advanced Residency Training at Stanford program, which allows clinical fellows to pursue graduate training en route to becoming physician-scientists. The SCCTER program will also link programs based outside the medical school, such as the Stanford Center for Longevity, the Woods Institute for the Environment, the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies and BioX, the interdisciplinary biomedical research program.

Winning the CTSA is great news, even though the budgets for the 14 awards were cut significantly due to the financial limitations at the NIH. Nonetheless we believe that this award will help advance our mission in *Translating Discoveries* and, in doing so, will create additional alliances and collaborations across the university. Again, thanks to Dr. Harry Greenberg and his colleagues for the key roles they played in bringing this proposal to successful fruition.

Supporting Basic Science

As discussed previously in a number of different forums, the Basic Science programs are facing significant challenges in funding their graduate student populations as well as their research. As I reported in my April 21st newsletter, we have found several sources of funding to help specifically with graduate student funding, which has been especially hard hit by the NIH Training Grant Tuition Cap. To summarize:

- The Provost has committed \$4.5 million in Stanford Graduate Fellowship (SGF) funds to be distributed from FY08-FY12 to schools with training grants, based on the number of training grant students as of August of the prior year.
- In addition, beginning in Autumn Quarter 07-08 and continuing for a 5-year period, SGF support will be providing 100% of the tuition cost of SGF fellows, which eliminates the need for the 19% School of Medicine tuition contribution for those students; the annual savings in the School of Medicine will be \$250,000 a year, and I have committed to reroute these dollars also towards graduate student support.
- We have also done a detailed review of all endowments committed to education and have identified approximately \$66 million of endowment that can be allocated to support graduate education. This will yield approximately \$3.6 million per year, of which we will allocate approximately \$2.9 million in annual income to support graduate student training grant tuition support.
- Finally, this NIH Training Grant Tuition Cap support is being made available to both Basic Science and Clinical Departments.

In addition to this support, we have reformulated the “D-Block” allocation of the operating budget formula, on which the basic science departments (with the exception of Genetics) and Comparative Medicine have increasingly come to rely over the past several years; D-Block funding increased by \$1.3 million last year, from \$3.9 million in 2007 to \$5.2 million in 2008. The new formula for 2009 will ensure that all the basic science departments have adequate funds for operations and to build reserves. The principles to which we adhered in formulating the new D-Block included:

- The formula delivers to each department approximately the same dollar amount or more than the FY08 deficit support.
- Any savings will be retained by the department and should be used to build Emergency or Academic Development/Strategic reserves.
- The formula is intended to help the majority of the departments reach their target reserve amounts by year five (5).
- We expect the supplemental formula to cover all additional requirements; no additional OB funding will be provided.
- Departments will need to reduce expenses or use other funds to cover deficits.
- The portion identified as targeted to reserves will be funded directly to the Department’s Emergency or Academic Development/Strategic reserve funds.
- When the reserve goal is reached, the supplemental allocation will be reduced in the current and subsequent years.
- The formula will be reviewed annually and adjusted as necessary.

- The FY09 total OB amount is formulated and then capped at the FY08 OB total amount plus up to one-fifth (1/5) of the Department's Emergency & Academic reserve shortfall.

Components of the new formula include a reimbursement for the 5% OB reduction; a faculty supplement for over-the-cap salaries; a faculty supplement based on rank; a space supplement for HHMI supported space; and a space supplement based on faculty rank.

As a result of the new D-Block formula, almost \$3 million more will be distributed in FY09 than was given in FY08—a total of \$7.5 million. This will allow departments to build their emergency and academic reserve funds while operating at an efficient level in the black. I believe this represents a fair and generous resolution to the financial issues that have beleaguered the basic science departments in recent years.

Center for Biomedical Imaging at Stanford

On Friday May 23rd, the kickoff meeting for the Center for Biomedical Imaging at Stanford (CBIS) was held in the Clark Center. It featured a lecture by Dr. Marc Ghysels on “CT Scanning of Works of Art and Antiquities.” (This was certainly more advanced technology than that featured in the work of Dr. Indiana Jones in the film that opened this weekend!).

The framework for the CBIS has been evolving in concert with the School’s strategic plan, *Translating Discoveries*, which, when it was developed over six years ago, envisioned the Stanford Institutes of Medicine along with several crosscutting strategic centers (including biomedical imaging, clinical informatics and genetics and genomics). The centers are at different stages of development, the most advanced being Clinical Informatics (see: <http://clinicalinformatics.stanford.edu/>). Efforts to develop a center for imaging extends back several years and has been under active study for the past year thanks to the efforts of Drs. Hans Ringertz and Gary Glazer from the Department of Radiology. The vision for the CBIS is “to provide the resources and interdisciplinary networks to ensure that Stanford remains at the leading edge of imaging science.” Despite the remarkable success of the imaging community at Stanford (which extends across the university) it is clear that to sustain leadership CBIS and Stanford will need to provide educational and networking opportunities for all groups on campus that use or have an interest in imaging applications.

To help elucidate a path forward, a nine-month planning effort was recently led by Dr. Ringertz, a visiting professor from the Karolinska Institute, and has resulted in a draft proposal. A part of this effort involved gathering input from faculty across the university about research imaging needs and requirements. Of the 1306 faculty who received a questionnaire on this topic, 354 responded and highlighted interest in access to clinical and research imaging (including microscopy). Codifying perceived needs was one important facet of the work done by the planning group. Equally important was defining the already impressive scope of imaging activities and services at Stanford—

which total more than 40 programs, centers, services or resources. One obvious conclusion of the planning group was the importance of providing a common website for Stanford faculty and students about already available imaging resources. I invite you to visit the recently developed website, which is quite informative (see: <http://cbis.stanford.edu/about/>). Accordingly, the CBIS is recommending a number of venues to provide greater connectivity to the Stanford community, including an Internet site, education programs and seminars as well as faculty and student alignments and seed programs – and facilities. We will be examining the recommendations of the CBIS to determine the best ways to support biomedical imaging at Stanford.

I want to thank Dr. Hans Ringertz again for his tremendous efforts during the past nine months as well as Dr. Glazer for his support. I also want to thank the faculty leaders and CBIS Advisory Board (see: <http://cbis.stanford.edu/people/#advisory>) for their efforts on this important project.

Update on the Department of Surgery

At a recent Executive Committee meeting, Dr. Tom Krummel, the Emile Holman Professor and Chair of the Department of Surgery and Susan B. Ford Surgeon-in-Chief at LPCH gave an update on the Department of Surgery. A summary of his remarks follows:

The Department of Surgery was founded more than 75 years ago with Emile Holman serving as its founding Chair. Holman was a Stanford grad (Phi Beta Kappa) and served as Secretary to President Jordan for three years. He was Stanford's 2nd Rhodes Scholar. Holman set a standard for faculty excellence to which we continue to aspire.

The Department consists of seven divisions including Anatomy, Emergency Medicine, General Surgery, Pediatric Surgery, Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery, Multi-Organ Transplantation and Endovascular/Vascular Surgery. There are currently a total of 78 faculty members and 123 residents and fellows. Each division maintains active clinical, research, and teaching functions. A full report is beyond the scope of this brief summary. Over the last 10 years there has been a 250% increase in the overall activity of the Department, and an almost 400% increase in sponsored research projects. Currently there are a total of 28 funded faculty with a total of 70 grants, and an estimated total cost of almost \$11.5M.

There are many ways to gauge the excellence of our faculty, important societal memberships is one of them. Currently 25% of the department faculty are members of the American Surgical Association. Nationally, less than 5% of faculty are members. Two department faculty are members of the American Society for Clinical Investigation, two have been elected to the Institute of Medicine and one to the American Academy of Physicians. Faculty members serve important leadership positions throughout the institution and throughout the nation.

It is fair to say that the standards of excellence set by Emile Holman, the founding Chair and by Stanford University are very much a part of the fiber of the Department of Surgery in 2008.

Reaffirmation of the Stanford Affirmation

At the May 21st meeting of the Medical School Faculty Senate, a proposal to revise the existing Stanford Affirmation was brought forth by the Stanford Medical Student Association. Matt Goldstein, President of SMSA, and Mitchell Lunn presented the proposed revisions, which were aimed at “modernizing” the text and addressing a number of omissions. After a thoughtful debate, the Senate recommended and I approved the following revised text for the Stanford Affirmation. This will be the version that will be read by our graduating students at Commencement on June 14th.

The Stanford Affirmation

On my admission to the Practice of Medicine

I pledge to devote my life to the service of humanity.

The care of my patients will be my first consideration.

I will strive to acquire and share new knowledge with my colleagues and my patients;

I will practice my profession with conscience and dignity, and to the best of my ability and judgment.

I will approach each patient with charity, attention, humility, and commitment;

I will hold all life dear, and let knowledge, wisdom, courage, and compassion guide my therapy;

I will use my medical knowledge and skills to promote human rights, social justice, and civil liberties;

I will not permit considerations of age, disease or disability, faith, ethnic origin, gender identity, nationality, race, sexual orientation, social standing or other forms of discrimination to intervene between my duty and my patient;

I will respect the confidences with which I will be entrusted;

I will give gratitude and respect to those from whom I have learned my Science

and my Art;

I will uphold the integrity of the medical profession;

I will cultivate peace in both personal conduct and political expression;

I will not use my knowledge contrary to the spirit of this Affirmation.

I make these promises in witness of those who have stood here before me, and those who will come after,

Solemnly, freely, and upon my honor.

Honoring Outstanding Teachers

On May 27th we initiated a new tradition: the presentation of faculty recognition awards for education at a school-wide reception. Traditionally these awards have been announced at Commencement – and while that has a special significance, it does not permit the students who have voted for the faculty winners to participate in the celebration. As we did this year, we plan in future years to announce and celebrate these awards at a special recognition reception. We will of course still list them in the Commencement program. This year's award winners include:

Stanford University School of Medicine Award for Graduate Teaching

Susan McConnell, Biological Sciences, School of Humanities & Sciences

Stanford University School of Medicine Award for Outstanding Service to Graduate Students

Thomas Clandinin, Neurobiology

The Arthur L. Bloomfield Award In Recognition of Excellence in the Teaching of Clinical Medicine

Rebecca Blankenburg, Pediatrics

John Morton, General Surgery

The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation Award for Outstanding and Innovative Contributions to Medical Education

Lisa Chamberlain, Pediatrics

The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation Award for Excellence in Preclinical Teaching

John Gosling, Surgery - Anatomy

Peter Pompei, Internal Medicine

Elliott Wolfe, Medicine

The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation Award for Excellence in Clinical Teaching

Paul Helgerson, Internal Medicine

Andrew Nevins, Medicine – Infectious Diseases

Erika Schillinger, Family Medicine

The Franklin G. Ebaugh, Jr. Award for Advising Medical Students

Stanley Rockson, Medicine - Cardiovascular

The Alwin C. Rambar-James B.D. Mark Award for Excellence in Patient Care

Bertil Glader, Pediatrics

The Arnold P. Gold Foundation Award for Humanism and Excellence in Teaching

Sarah Azad, Obstetrics and Gynecology

Monica Eneriz-Weimer, Pediatrics

Ahmir Khan, Neurology

Lana Schumacher, Surgery

Dan Sedehi, Internal Medicine

Jacob Towery, Psychiatry

Congratulations to each of our 2008 faculty educator award winners. Medical and graduate students choose nearly all of these awards, and they reflect the respect and appreciation of the Stanford community for each of these individuals. I also announced at the reception that, upon his retirement, we will be establishing the *Elliott Wolfe Award for Excellence in the Teaching of the Art and Science of Clinical Medicine*.

Honoring Dr. Larry Shuer

On May 28th colleagues and friends of Dr. Larry Shuer, Professor Neurosurgery, gathered in the Stanford Hospital and Clinics (SHC) atrium to celebrate and offer appreciation for his twelve years as the SHC Chief of Staff. Dr. Shuer served in this important role during a remarkable period of time – through the merger and then de-merger with UCSF, nursing strikes, financial challenges, leadership changes and many other events in the Medical Center. Throughout this time Dr. Shuer served most ably as a fair, balanced, clear-minded leader. He served as the hospital's spokesperson for both good and bad news, always representing the institution with dignity and respect. Accordingly, he won the admiration and confidence of hospital leaders as well as the medical staff – many of whom joined in this celebration. Part of Dr. Shuer's responsibilities included graduate medical education, and I am pleased that he will continue to have oversight over these programs even as he steps down from his position. This year the Chief of Staff position became an elected one with a term of two years. Thus Dr. Shuer's 12 year term will go down in history as the longest on record – and surely one of the most distinguished and respected as well.

Additional Awards and Honors

- **Howard Hughes Medical Institute Awards:** It might be appropriate to refer to Stanford as HHMI West. With the announcement of 4 new Investigator awards (out of 56 that were offered) Stanford and MIT are tied for the largest number of HHMI Investigators in the nation. This is quite a distinction. The newly selected HHMI Investigators for Stanford University include:
 - **Seung Kim**, Associate Professor of Developmental Biology
 - **Mark Schnitzer**, Assistant Professor Biology and of Applied Physics
 - **Kang Shen**, Assistant Professor in Biology
 - **Julie Theriot**, Associate Professor of Biochemistry

In addition, we have also recently have received the terrific news that 10 medical students were successful in this year's HHMI competition for research fellowship training. This too is a highly competitive process in which Stanford students have performed exceedingly well in the past several years. This year's winners and their research mentors are:

Student	Mentor
<i>Paul Nuyujakian</i> , SMS 2	Krishna Shenoy, Electrical Engineering and Bioengineering
<i>Jennifer Chen</i> , SMS 4	Paul Khavari, Dermatology
<i>Angieszka Czechowicz</i> , SMS 2	Irv Weissman and Deepta Bhattacharya, Stem Cell Biology, Cancer Center and Pathology
<i>Michael Galvez</i> , SMS 2	Geoff Gurtner, Surgery and Amato Giaccia, Radiation Oncology
<i>Matthew Goldstein</i> , SMS2	Ron Levy, Medicine
<i>Jennifer Hong</i> , SMS2	Matt Scott, Developmental Biology
<i>Russ Huss</i> , SMS 2	Eugene Butcher, Pathology (at the VA)
<i>Gene Ma</i> , SMS2	Ching-Pin Chang, Medicine
<i>Jeremy Pearl</i> , SMS2	Mark Davis, ITI and Microbiology & Immunology and Joe Wu, Medicine
<i>Makeda Robinson</i> , SMS2	Ann Arvin, Pediatrics

- **Searle Awards:** The Searle Scholars program, which began in 1981, announced its fifteen 2008 Scholars selected from 176 applicants from 120 universities and research institutions. One of the Searle Scholar Awards is to a Stanford junior faculty member:
 - **Dr. Gill Bejerano**, Assistant Professor of Developmental Biology and of Computer Science
- **Burroughs Wellcome Fund Career Awards for Medical Scientists** named 16 winners for 2008, including two from Stanford:
 - **Dr. Ravindra Majeti**, Instructor, Division of Hematology, Department of Medicine
 - **Dr. David Tevis Pride**, Fellow, Department of Medicine

- **CASE Awards:** The Council for Advanced Support for Education (CASE) presented a number of prestigious awards to our Office of Communications and Public Affairs including:
 - *Gold Medal* for “Stanford Medicine” reflecting the leadership of **Rosanne Spector**
 - *Gold Medal* for news writing involving science and medicine
 - *Silver Medal* for best article – this being “Silent Inferno” by **Tracie White**
 - *Silver Medal* for visual design in print for the Spring 2007 cover on the health impact of global climate change by **Tomer Hanuka**
 - *Silver Medal* for “Code Green” by **Tomer Hanuka**
 - *Bronze Medal* for “War Rounds” in Stanford Medicine

Congratulations to our Office of Communications and the leadership of **Paul Costello** for these wonderful honors

- **Graduate Student Fellowship Awards**
 - **Paul Sigala**, graduate student in Biochemistry, has been awarded the 2008-2009 *Lieberman Fellowship at Stanford University*
 - The Office of the Vice Provost for Graduate Education announced the successful graduate students for the inaugural *DARE (Diversifying Academia, Recruiting Excellence) Doctoral Fellowship Program*. The DARE Fellowship is a two-year award for advanced graduate students who are planning academic careers and who will also help diversity academia’s professoriate. Of the 12 awardees at Stanford, three were in the medical school and included:
 - **Jessica Allen** (Immunology)
 - **Matthew Anderson** (Genetics)

Congratulations to all!

- **US News and World Report (USNWR)** rankings for “America’s Best Children’s Hospitals” named the Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital (LPCH) as the top children’s hospital in the Bay area and #12 in the nation. In addition, the Heart Program was ranked #5 and cancer program #10. These rankings were based on a blend of reputation, outcome and care-related measures including volume, nursing and credentialing. Congratulations to the LPCH leadership and to the physicians and staff who have made such wonderful contributions to care of children.
- **Patricia Foo** (SMSI) has been awarded the Schweitzer Fellowship for 2008-09. The Bay Area Schweitzer Fellowship Program is a joint program between the University of California Berkeley, University of California San Francisco, and Stanford University. She will be developing a project on coordination of mental health services at the Opportunity Center in Palo Alto.

- The following students have been awarded Valley Fellowships for 2008-09. The Valley Fellowships are summer fellowships that provide students the opportunity to work on a focused, substantive project defined by the San Mateo and Santa Clara County community partners to strategically expand their capacity to meet their mission. Projects address health issues from a population perspective with a particular focus on health disparities and underserved communities.
 - *ChaRandle Jordan* (MD-PhD student)
 - *Christine Chang* (SMSI)
 - *Yi-Ren Chen* (SMSI)
 - *Narmadan Kumarasamy*(SMSI)
 - *Angela Venega* (SMSI)

- Three awards were presented to three groups of first year medical students at the Population Health Symposium on May 14th for Outstanding Population Health Project.
 - *Frederick Chris Bennett, Flynn LaRochelle, Sarah Pickard, Jessica Sin, and Chad Tang* for their project “Assessing the healthcare needs of transgender women in Santa Clara County” completed in partnership with Lydia Guel and the Community Health Partnership of Santa Clara County.
 - *Amanda Brosius Lutz, David Craig, Patricia Foo, Mariko Howe, Grace Huynh, Anna Lonyai, Liam MacLeod, and Michael Sundberg* for the project “The Farmers’ Market as a Health Intervention: A community-based model for integrating food system change and health services provision in urban communities” in collaboration with Wolfram Alderson and Collective Roots.
 - *Gregory Charville, Walter Igawa-Silva, Joanna Mattis, Nathaniel Myall, Christine Lee, and Daniel Winetsky* for the project “Mental Health Prevention and Early Intervention in a Primary Care Setting” with Lourie Campos of Community Health Partnership.

Appointments and Promotions

- *Scott S. Hall* has been appointed to Assistant Professor (Research) of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, effective 6/01/08.

- *Justin L. Sonnenburg* has been appointed to Assistant Professor of Microbiology and Immunology, effective 6/01/08.