Retired Faculty Association
Newsletter
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Retired Faculty Association Office Dedicated

The RWJMS Retired Faculty Association (RFA) Office was dedicated in a ribbon cutting ceremony at the February 19, 2010 RFA meeting. Dean Peter Amenta did the honors of cutting the red ribbon to the office. All RWJMS retired faculty members are encouraged to use the room which contains two desks, telephones, and computers with internet connections. It is located on the second floor of the teaching wing of the medical school, room C-211, not far from the Great Hall in Piscataway. For more information about the use of the room, please contact Ruthe Geardino (tel. no. 732-235-8130; email: geardira@umdnj.edu).

RFA MEETING

“Lies Lies Lies – What’s the Truth?
Scientific Literature and Asbestos Disease”

Susan Daum, MD
Friday April 30, 2010; 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Dean’s Conference Room, Piscataway

The Johns-Manville Corporation maintained a large manufacturing facility for asbestos in Manville, which is adjacent to Piscataway. The corporation was involved in large class-action suits initiated by people who had developed asbestosis. Dr. Daum evaluated asbestos-related disability in these people and testified in court on her findings. She will discuss some of the ways publications have distorted data concerning asbestos as a cause of lung cancer and chrysotile as a cause of any asbestos-related disease.

All current and retired faculty and staff are welcome to attend Dr. Daum’s talk.

Lunch and yogurt will be available, and contributions for the lunch can be made at the meeting. Please RSVP Barbara Brodsky (tel. no. 732-235-4048; e-mail: brodsky@umdnj.edu) by Monday, April 26 if you plan to attend and you wish to reserve a luncheon.

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February 19, 2010 Meeting of the RFA
“A Conversation with the Dean”

The following is a summary of a frank, candid, and constructive discussion with Dean Peter Amenta and about 20-25 faculty members. In addition to questions asked at the meeting, some questions were submitted by RFA members to the Dean prior to the meeting.

One question raised prior to the meeting was whether faculty members who have the emeritus professor or emeritus associate professor titles may apply for grants through RWJMS. Awarding of such grants to faculty members of those titles, a practice that is allowed by NIH, would be a win-win situation for both the faculty members and the school. The Dean said that he had researched this and that faculty members with those titles are not allowed to apply for grants at UMDNJ. He said he would forward the request to allow emeritus professors or emeritus associate professors to apply for grants to Denise Rodgers, MD, Executive VP for Academic and Clinical Affairs.

Dean Peter Amenta had spent the morning of the RFA meeting chairing the “Revenue Enhancement and Diversification Track Team” for UMDNJ, one of five teams appointed by President Owen. In an email dated February 12, 2010 to the UMDNJ faculty, President Owen wrote, “Yesterday, the Governor (Chris Christie) declared that a state of ‘fiscal emergency’ exists in New Jersey. It is a difficult message for everyone, and we understand the urgent need for action the Governor expressed. The proposed cuts of $20 million in UMDNJ's state appropriation for the remainder of our budget year -- $16 million tied to higher education and $4 million to charity care -- are sobering.” The Dean said that these cuts on top of a series of previous cuts in state funding to RWJMS are making a difficult situation worse. While he has been innovative in securing funding to sustain the medical school over the years, there is a point where the situation becomes unsustainable and raises the question, “What is the right size of the University?”

One faculty member pointed out that the Cooper clinical campus will soon become independent of UMDNJ to form the four-year Cooper Medical School of Rowan University and wondered how New Jersey can afford to develop a new basic science program in South Jersey, which is a very expensive undertaking, at a time that reductions are being proposed in core state-wide functions such as education, Medicaid, and the state pension program. The Dean presented the history of the South Jersey medical program and the events leading up to the creation of the
Cooper Medical School of Rowan University. As a result of the loss of the South Jersey clinical program, the size of the RWJMS entering class will be reduced to about 120 students from its present size of about 160 students. The Dean stated that the issue of appropriate state funding for medical school education and health care programs at the state level is beyond his control and that he hopes that the Cooper Medical School succeeds and develops into a quality four-year program.

A faculty member raised the following point: “It is very hard to see that any of the medical players in New Brunswick - the two hospitals and the medical school - is better off in the current situation as compared to the time before the split. Is there any prospect of getting the two New Brunswick hospitals back together again and unifying faculty and educational efforts?” The Dean said that the medical school is cooperating with St. Peter’s University Hospital at present in a number of areas including GI and cardio-thoracic programs. However, in order to return to the previous era, St. Peter’s would need to provide core clinical clerkship for RWJMS students.

One faculty member raised the issue that there is too much underutilized space in the Clinical Academic Building. The Dean agreed that there could be better utilization of the space, particularly at certain times of the week, but did not offer an immediate solution to this problem.

RWJMS RFA BUSINESS MEETING - February 19, 2010

Eckhard Kemmann announced the results of the recent election of RFA officers: Eckhard Kemmann was elected President; Michael Gallo, Vice-President; and Paul Manowitz, Secretary.

The Election and Membership Committee (Chair: David Riley; Members: Michael Gochfeld, John Lenard, and Mary Swigar) nominated Nancy Stevenson for membership to the Program Committee. Michael Gochfeld was nominated from the floor. Nancy Stevenson and Michael Gochfeld were elected unanimously to serve on the Program Committee by those present.

Barbara Brodsky gave the Treasurer’s Report. The RFA has $650.00 in its checking account. She was particularly pleased to find that so many of the RWJMS retired faculty showed their interest to belong to this organization. She said that it was heart warming that they wanted to continue to be members of this academic community.

Eckhard Kemmann stated that the RFA held its December 2009 meeting at the Rutgers Club in New Brunswick and inquired if the RFA should hold the December 2010 meeting there again. Those who attended the meeting at the Rutgers Club last December said that they found the environment warm and welcoming and the service good. If the meeting is held in early December, there will not be any additional holiday charges. The general sense of those present is that the Rutgers Club would be a desirable venue for the next December meeting.

Eckhard Kemmann read the memorial statements about Sandra Leiblum, Robert Trelstad, and Christian Hansen (see these on pages 6 and 7). Barbara Brodsky suggested that the RFA should assemble the comments received by the RFA about those who have died and transmit these to the families. Avedis Khachadurian said that the RFA should purchase the memoirs by Christian Hansen for the RWJMS library. To date, the RFA has not been able to secure a copy.
Jerry Langer, the Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs, raised the issue of how the school should mark the retirement of faculty. Paul Lehrer and Michael Gallo suggested that the school recognize current faculty who have a certain length of service, e.g. 25 years. Jerry Langer said that he would like to continue this discussion at another RFA meeting.

NEWS FROM AFAR

Joanne Medlinsky Gibson (formerly of the Department of Medicine) wrote,

“I am alive and well in Arlington, VA enjoying my retirement in a variety of ways. My husband and I are active in a Learning in Retirement Institute and take regular courses, and I am on the Academic Programs Committee and help create courses. We travel and vacation and of course see friends and family. We seem to be very busy but cannot tell you what all we are doing.

“I am happily in good health as is my husband and I go to the gym 4-5 times a week to keep in shape. We are very close to DC and partake of the many great theater and music opportunities. We brag that we can get from the Kennedy Center to our house in 12 minutes.”

Tom Stevens (formerly of the Department of Molecular Genetics, Microbiology, and Immunology) wrote,

“We (Tom and his wife Jeanne) bought 2 1/2 acres here in the ‘Northern Neck’ of Virginia in 1982. When I retired in 1984, we rented a house nearby and started to build on Ball’s Creek. Ball is a locally important name being the surname of George Washington's wife and is commonly applied to areas: 2 Creeks, a Hill, a Knob, and a Knoll that I can think of. We are about four miles from Chesapeake Bay, so there is endless sailing, which at 83 I no longer do, and exploring (some). Please give my best to those who might remember me.”

Lourdes Laraya-Cuasay (formerly of the Department of Pediatrics) wrote the following in February right after the medical school was closed, except for essential services, because of a snow storm:

“The newsletter was very informative and the history of the two medical schools was a real eye-opener. History marches on and we continue to hope that RWJMS will lead the band of medical schools in New Jersey after such a prestigious history of Harvardians among its graduates.

"Arizona has the sun always shining and very little rain. I empathized with those who were snowbound in RWJMS during all those rough times so I felt some guilt about having so much sunshine while you all had the snow. I miss the four seasons so someday I know I will be back to New Jersey which I call my home.”

PAINTING EXHIBITION

Gisela Witz (formerly of the Department of Environmental and Community Medicine) will have her oil paintings exhibited in a class exhibit of Gerry Heydt’s students at the Paper Mill
Playhouse in Millburn, NJ, from April 7 through May 2, 2010. After retiring in 2000, she took independent oil painting study classes with S. Alan Schaefer from 2003 to 2008 at the Somerset Art Association and the Visual Arts Center in Summit, NJ, and continued classes with Gerry Heydt in 2009. She likes painting flowers from her garden, landscapes, seascapes, and scenes from the Blackwater Wildlife Refuge in Maryland. She is still active at RWJMS and has won two volunteer faculty awards.

THE SHOPPING CENTER

Ruthe Geardino of the RWJMS Office of Planning and Administration provided the RFA with the information shown below. Please note that all retired RWJMS faculty members are entitled to an e-mail account at UMDNJ which is needed to access this information (see http://rwjms.umdnj.edu/faculty/retiring_faculty/index.html).

Please visit the updated Human Resources Employee Discount page (https://my.umdnj.edu/cp/home/displaylogin?goto=https://my.umdnj.edu%2Fcas%2Flogin%3Fservlet%3Dhttp%253A%252F%252Fwebservices.umdnj.edu%252Fxrss%252Fgui%252Ffile) for savings on products, services and events.

There are newly featured discount vendors, including discounts for Apple and Dell computers, Hershey Park and Dutch Wonderland. Qualified employees can apply for NJ Manufacturers Insurance (http://www.njm.com/Information/DividendsAllCoverages.asp). UMDNJ employees can receive discounts on hotels, Broadway theatre, and sporting and family events through workingadvantage.com

Some offers may have expiration dates. Please check the Human Resources Employee Discount page periodically as new vendors will be added.

Disclaimer:

Persons who access this information assume full responsibility for the use of said information and understand and agree that the University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ) assumes no responsibility for any arrangements, contracts, purchases, or disputes between an individual employee and any discount vendor. Any arrangements, services or products purchased shall be used solely at the discretion of each employee. Employees must contact the vendor for specific questions or concerns and for all customer service functions.

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IN MEMORIAM

Sandra Leiblum

“With great sadness we learned of the recent death of our dear and esteemed colleague, Dr. Sandra R. Leiblum. While on vacation in the Berkshires in May of last year, Sandy incurred a cerebral trauma from which she never recovered. Our deepest sympathy goes to her husband, Frank Brickle, and her son, Jake Kassen. Sandy joined the Department of Psychiatry in 1972 and had an extremely productive career. As author, researcher, teacher, therapist, and lecturer, she left an indelible mark. Sandy sought interdisciplinary research, and I was very fortunate that I had the opportunity to collaborate with her on a number of projects where our interests intersected. To work with her was inspirational, uplifting, and rewarding. She was the editor of the standard textbook ‘Principles and Practice of Sex Therapy,’ now in its fourth edition. Her most recent book ‘Treating Sexual Desire Disorders: A Clinical Casebook’ was just published this year. Her exuberant embracement of life touched everybody who knew her. Sandy, thank you for being part of our life, and we will not forget you.”

-Eckhard Kemmann-

Robert Trelstad

The following is an excerpt of an announcement sent by Dean Peter Amenta to the RWJMS faculty:

“It is with great sadness that I inform you that Robert L. Trelstad, MD, passed away on February 16, 2010. Dr. Trelstad worked tirelessly to build academic and clinical programs throughout the university and the state. His leadership resulted in the development and growth of the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine as we know it today. His accomplishments were only matched by his collegiality and collaborative nature. He will be greatly missed in our community, nationally and internationally.

“Dr. Trelstad began his career at UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School as professor and chair, Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine in 1981. He served as chair of the department for 17 years. It was my honor and privilege to work for him and with him. In 1998, Dr. Trelstad became the acting director and the Harold L. Paz, MD, Professor of Developmental Biology at the Child Health Institute of New Jersey. For seven years, he served a pivotal role in the funding, planning and construction of the new facility. Dr. Trelstad served on numerous editorial boards, including the Journal of Cell Biology. He was an associate editor of at least eight journals and was a member of the editorial advisory board of at least three other journals. He was the editor-in-chief of Keyboard Publishing, Inc., one of the first ventures in the area of online publications. Dr. Trelstad authored more than 175 publications in journals as prestigious as Nature, The Journal of Cell Biology, The New England Journal of Medicine and The Journal of Biochemistry.

“Please join me in expressing our condolences to his wife, Barbara, his entire family, friends and colleagues.”
In Memoriam (continued)

Christian Hansen

“Christian Hansen, age 77, died recently, apparently from complications of myelodysplasia and its complications. Chris was one of the first faculty members of the Department of Pediatrics and the Department of Community Medicine of Rutgers Medical School. He had a life-long commitment to the social and international aspects of pediatrics. Before coming to Rutgers he worked at the pioneer rural health center, during desegregation, in Mound Bayou, Mississippi. Throughout his career he practiced and taught at clinics and medical schools from Saudi Arabia to Nepal and from Iran to Latin America; several years ago he published a memoir of his adventures.”

-Norman Sissman-

Additional information from a Philadelphia newspaper about Christian Hansen may be found at the following website:

This newsletter was edited by Eckhard Kemmann, Michael Gallo, Barbara Brodsky, and Paul Manowitz.
Retired Faculty Association

The following members have paid their RWJMS RFA 2010 dues:

Gordon Benson  
Bruce and Mary Breckenridge  
Barbara Brodsky  
Charlie Brostrom  
Margaret Brostrom  
James Chandler  
Lourdes Laraya-Cuasay  
Norman Edelman  
David Egger  
Mike Gallo  
Herb Geller  
Myron Gessner  
Joanne Medlinsky Gibson  
Marsha Jessup  
Ekkhard Kemmenn  
Avedis Khachadurian  
Florence Kimball  
Howard Kortis  
Linda Kovach  
John Lenard  
Paul Lehrer  
Gordon MacDonald  
James Mackenzie  
Paul Manowitz  
Russell McIntyre  
Ron Morris  
David Riley  
Bob Shelden  
Norman Sissman  
Frank Snope  
Paul Stein  
Thomas Stevens  
Nancy Stevenson  
William Strohl  
Marshall Swartzburg  
Donald Wolf
Retired Faculty Association

If you have not already done so, please send in your 2010 dues. Please cut along the dotted line and return this portion with your payment.

**RWJMS Retired Faculty Association 2010 Dues**

**Benefits of RFA Membership:**
- Defining, advocating for and publicizing the benefits of retired faculty at RWJMS,
- Fostering ongoing engagement and participation of retired faculty in RWJMS activities,
- Promoting continuing interaction among retirees,
- Providing information and options for faculty considering retirement, and
- Interacting with other academic retired faculty associations (e.g., Rutgers Retired Faculty Association).

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Please Print:

Name: __________________________________________

Address: __________________________________________

________________________________________

Phone: __________________________________________

E-mail address: __________________________________________

Please enclose a check in the amount of $15 made payable to “Barbara Brodsky” and mail to her at the following address:

Barbara Brodsky, PhD
Department of Biochemistry
UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School
675 Hoes Lane
Piscataway, NJ. 08854

Thank you.