Message from the Dean

Our students have given us much to celebrate. The Class of 2010 had an exceptional 98 percent match rate and will enter the nation’s top residency programs. In addition, six members of our second- and third-year classes — the most in the history of the medical school — have been accepted as fellows by leading national research programs. Our Alumni Association recently hosted 126 guests at a happy hour where students enjoyed the opportunity to relax and meet informally with alumni and faculty. The collective success of our students is our proudest accomplishment, as we also celebrate the faculty’s extraordinary achievements outside the classroom, in academic leadership, research, and publishing.

April saw the dedication of new space for The Cardiovascular Institute of New Jersey in the Clinical Academic Building. A superb symposium showcased the latest cardiovascular-related research conducted by institute’s faculty.

We ended our academic year on another high note, as one of our distinguished alumni, F. Charles Brunicardi, MD ’80, chair, Michael E. DeBakey Department of Surgery, Baylor College of Medicine, delivered the keynote address at Convocation.

Congratulations to you all. I wish you a relaxing and productive summer.

Peter S. Amenta, MD, PhD
Dean

RWJMS Dedicates Space for The Cardiovascular Institute of New Jersey

Following a dedication ceremony on April 29, The Cardiovascular Institute of New Jersey (CVINJ) at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School moved into its new space in the Clinical Academic Building. A scientific symposium at the event showcased the latest cardiovascular-related research conducted by faculty of the institute.

The mission of CVINJ focuses on improving heart health by pioneering integrative strategies to prevent, treat, and cure heart disease; translate science and technology into new therapies; and train future leaders in cardiovascular medicine. Since its founding, the institute’s efforts have centered on clinical research, cardiovascular pharmacology, disease management and biomedical engineering.

Established in 2001 with a $10 million grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF), CVINJ has benefited from additional support from RWJF, the Schering-Plough Foundation, and many individuals. With their help, CVINJ has brought together physicians and scientists who collaborate across many disciplines to advance research for the benefit of patient care and education.

“The Cardiovascular Institute of New Jersey’s continuing development as a cardiovascular center of excellence reinforces its commitment to clinical research, prevention, diagnosis, treatment and education locally, across New Jersey and nationwide.”

— John B. Kostis, MD
T he Edward J. Ill Excellence in Medicine Foundation honored three RWJMS faculty members at its annual dinner and awards ceremony on May 5, in Princeton.

Denise V. Rodgers, MD, provost and executive vice president for academic and clinical affairs, UMDNJ, and professor of family medicine and community health, RWJMS, received the Edward J. Ill Physician’s Award. The Outstanding Medical Research Scientist Award for Clinical Research was presented to John B. Kostis, MD, the John G. De dwiler Chair of Cardiology, professor and chair, Department of Medicine, and founding director of CVINJ. Sidney Pestka, MD, professor and chair, Department of Microbiology, Molecular Genetics, and Immunology, received the Outstanding Medical Research Scientist Award for Basic Biomedical Research. Starting this year, profits from the event will fund medical student scholarships in New Jersey.

Morris Lecture Features Noted Microbiologist

On April 21, Susan Lindquist, PhD, professor of biology, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), delivered the 2010 N. Ronald Morris Lecture, “Protein Folding in Health and Disease.” Dr. Lindquist is a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator and a member and former director of MIT’s Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research. Her work on protein folding and the consequences of misfolding explains how protein conformational changes provide epigenetic mechanisms of inheritance, sculpt phenotypic landscapes, shape evolutionary process, and cause devastating neurodegenerative diseases.

I N M E M O R I A M

Robert L. Trelstad, MD

W ith great sadness, the RWJMS community learned that Robert L. Trelstad, MD, passed away on February 16. “His extraordinary accomplishments were only matched by his collegiality and collaborative nature. He will be greatly missed in our community, nationally and internationally,” said Peter S. Amenta, MD, PhD, dean.

Dr. Trelstad joined the faculty in 1981 as professor and chair of the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine and held that position until 1998, when he was appointed acting director and Harold L. Paz, MD Professor of Developmental Biology at the Child Health Institute of New Jersey. He served a pivotal role in the funding, planning, and construction of the new facility.

Dr. Trelstad received the National Distinguished Teaching Award in Basic Sciences from Alpha Omega Alpha and the Association of American Medical Sciences, and the Edward J. Ill Outstanding Medical Educator Award. He wrote more than 175 articles, which were published in journals that include Nature, The Journal of Cell Biology, the New England Journal of Medicine, and the Journal of Biochemistry.

Tetsuo Shimamura, MD

S adly, we report the passing of Tetsuo Shimamura, MD, professor of pathology and laboratory medicine. “He was an inspiration to those who were fortunate enough to be taught by him and to work with him,” said Evan Cadoff, MD, professor and interim chair, Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine.

Dr. Shimamura began his career in the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine in June 1968 as an assistant professor, attaining the rank of professor in 1975. He was a dedicated educator, researcher, and physician, concentrating in renal pathology. Throughout his career, Dr. Shimamura published numerous articles and was the recipient of several academic and teaching awards. He retired in October 2007.
**NJBIZ “Top 50” Includes Dr. Owen and Three RWJMS Faculty**

In their March 29 issue, the editors of *NJBIZ* published their picks for the “50 Most Powerful People in Healthcare in New Jersey.” Among the leaders named was William F. Owen, Jr., MD, president, UMDNJ. The list included three members of the RWJMS faculty — two of whom are alumni of the medical school: Jeffrey C. Brenner, MD ’95, instructor of family medicine and community health, Camden campus, and medical director of the Camden Coalition of Healthcare Providers; Robert DiPaola, MD, professor of medicine and director, The Cancer Institute of New Jersey; and Alfred F. Tallia, MD ’78, MPH, professor and chair, Department of Family Medicine and Community Health.

*NJBIZ* writes that, in seeking to identify “the next generation of movers and shakers” in New Jersey’s health care industry, its editors targeted the medical, insurance, pharmaceutical, biotech, and policy fields and spoke to insiders about who will influence and shape future health care policy.

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**Exhibit Portrays State’s Medical History**

Call the Doctor! Call the Nurse," a new exhibit at the historic Cornelius Low House Museum, 1225 River Road, Piscataway, portrays New Jersey’s key role in the field of medicine. First-hand remembrances along with artifacts from doctors, pharmacies, and educational institutions help recount the state’s medical history from 1775 to 1975. The exhibit includes artifacts from UMDNJ and RWJMS. The display spans epidemics, potions, and remedies, as well as research and the advancement of Johnson & Johnson. It also spotlights treatments for mental illness and the role of women as nurses, healers, and midwives. The exhibit will be open Tuesdays through Fridays and Sundays, 1 to 4 p.m. through June 26.

For information call 732.745.4177.

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**Dr. Rabson Directs Child Health Institute Of New Jersey**

Peter S. Amenta, MD, PhD, dean, appointed Arnold B. Rabson, MD, professor of molecular genetics, microbiology and immunology, pathology and laboratory medicine, and pediatrics, as the second director of the Child Health Institute of New Jersey (CHINJ). He previously served as interim director of CHINJ, and deputy director of The Cancer Institute of New Jersey. “Dr. Rabson has the vision and the ability to develop the Child Health Institute of New Jersey into a preeminent center for biomedical research,” says Dr. Amenta.

Dr. Rabson’s research interests center around immune, infectious, and inflammatory disorders, leukemias, and lymphomas. As CHINJ director, he says, “I have a unique and exciting opportunity to build a highly interactive center of extraordinary quality, at the forefront of basic discovery and clinical application of research for the treatment and prevention of diseases, such as asthma, juvenile onset diabetes, childhood cancers, autism and metabolic and endocrine disorders.”

“One of the Child Health Institute’s strongest initiatives is to serve as a catalyst for basic science and clinical activities in partnership with the Department of Pediatrics where more than 20,000 youngsters are treated annually,” reports Dr. Rabson. “The Department of Pediatrics includes subspecialists who provide inpatient and outpatient treatment that did not exist previously in New Jersey for children with cancer, cardiac disease, cystic fibrosis, and other life-threatening illnesses, as well as for neurodevelopmental disorders.

Furthermore, the relationship with the Bristol-Myers Squibb Children’s Hospital at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital and the PSE&G Children’s Specialized Hospital will enhance the clinical focus of the institute and the well-being of New Jersey’s youngest residents.”

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**Alumni Association Awards Scholarships And Loans**

The Alumni Association Board of Trustees approved $151,200 in scholarships and loans to be awarded to RWJMS students during the 2010-2011 academic year. The scholarships include $20,000/year awards to each of four Hippocrates Scholars, one in each class.

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**Alumni News**

Lynn Helmer, MD ’82, MBA, was elected to the 2010-2011 board of directors of the American College of Physician Executives. Dr. Helmer is president of DRD Consulting in Haddon Heights, New Jersey.

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**From The Dean’s Desk**

Published by the RWJMS Department of Communications and Public Affairs

Director: Patricia M. Hansen
Editor: Roberta Rilmer
Writers: Kate O’Neill and Jennifer Forbes
Art Director: Barbara Walsh

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**Appointments**

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Dr. Nancy Hayes Selected for Harvey Award

Nancy L. Hayes, PhD, associate professor of neuroscience and cell biology and chair of the first year course directors committee, has been selected to receive the 2010 Professor Richard A. Harvey Excellence in Teaching Innovation Award. The annual award, which carries a stipend of $3,500, recognizes the faculty member who has made the most innovative contributions to teaching during the past year.

In Dr. Hayes’s case, these include significant advances in the existing Web-based system used in the neuroscience course, with the addition of tutorials and self-assessment modules that allow students to evaluate their understanding of the subject. In addition, Dr. Hayes created “selectives,” which require students to pose a question, independently research the answer, and then evaluate the long-term importance of their findings.

Curriculum 2010 incorporates a number of Dr. Hayes’s innovations, says Siobhan A. Corbett, MD ’87, associate professor of surgery and chair, Curriculum Committee. “Not only is Nancy an excellent and exciting lecturer with incredible mastery of her subject, she turns students into active learners and critical thinkers. She demonstrates a dedication to teaching that is in the truest spirit of the award.”

Personalized Medicine,” the Spring 2009 issue of Robert Wood Johnson Medicine, earned a gold Astor Award in the category “Magazine: Single Issue.” The same issue received a bronze award in the “External Publications” category of the 27th Annual Healthcare Advertising Awards Competition.

Bruce G. Haffty, MD, professor and chair, Department of Radiation Oncology and associate director, CINJ, became president of the American Board of Radiology in May.

Robert DiPaola, MD, professor of medicine and director, The Cancer Institute of New Jersey (CINJ), was invited to present testimony on cancer research before the U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health.

Theodore A. Petti, MD, MPH, professor of psychiatry, received the Outstanding Mentor Award from the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry.

John K. Costis, MD, the John G. Detwiler Chair of Cardiology, professor and chair, Department of Medicine, and founding director of CVINJ, was recognized by the American Society of Hypertension as Fellow for excellence in research or clinical contributions.

Céline Gélinas, PhD, professor of biochemistry and associate dean for research, has been named a member of the new College of Scientific Reviewers of the National Institutes of Health. She has also been elected to fellowship in the American Academy of Microbiology.

Jeffrey P. Carpenter, MD, professor and chief, Department of Surgery, Camden campus, was senior author of “Contemporary Results of Endovascular Repair of Abdominal Aortic Aneurysms: Effect of Anatomical Fixation on Outcomes,” published in the April 2010 Journal of Endovascular Therapy.

Patricia M. Hansen, MA, director, communications and public affairs, presented “Marketing on a Shoestring: Creative Approaches to Budget Reductions” at the Association of American Medical Colleges’ (AAMC) Group on Institutional Advancement National Professional Development Conference in Tucson in April.

Masayori Inouye, PhD, professor of biochemistry, has been elected to fellowship in the American Academy of Microbiology.

A book review written by Douglas Fraser, MD, a resident in the Department of Surgery, of “The Coming Shortage of Surgeons,” was published in The Journal of the American Medical Association.

The Graduate School-New Brunswick of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey presented an Alumni/ae Award for Distinguished Accomplishments in Biological Sciences to Karen Lin, MD ’89, associate professor of family medicine and community health.

Robert C. Like, MD, professor of family medicine and community health and director, Center for Health Families and Cultural Diversity, participated in “Families in Focus: Multicultural Medicine,” a two-part interview on Caucus New Jersey with Steve Adubato.

Theresa M. Miskimen, MD, associate professor of psychiatry, was elected president of the New Jersey Psychiatric Association.

Jacqueline Williams-Phillips, MD, associate professor of pediatrics, was inducted into the American College of Critical Care Medicine.

The following faculty members were named to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection’s new Science Advisory Board: Paul Lioy, PhD, professor of environmental and occupational medicine, Robert Laumberg, MD ’97, MPH, assistant professor of environmental and occupational medicine, and Michael Gallo, PhD, adjunct professor of environmental and occupational medicine.

Rigitte Baumann, MD, associate professor of emergency medicine, was named a 2009 senior reviewer for The Annals of Emergency Medicine.
**Alfred F. Tallia, MD ’78, MPH, professor and chair, Department of Family Medicine and Community Health, was co-author of “Anticipating the Challenges of Reforming the United States Medical Licensing Examination,” published in *Academic Medicine* 85(3):453-456. In addition, he was senior author of “Health Centers as Accountable Care Organizations,” a commentary co-authored by Peter S. Amenta, MD, PhD, dean, and Stephen K. Jones, FACHE, president and CEO, Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, published in *Academic Medicine* 85(5):766-767.

**Helmut Zarbl, PhD, professor of environmental and occupational medicine and associate director for public health science, CINI, was named vice president of the Carcinogenesis Specialty Section of the Society of Toxicology.

**Carol A. Terregino, MD ’86, associate professor of medicine, interim senior associate dean, Camden regional campus, and associate dean for admissions, served as a keynote panelist at the Regional Mini Conference of the Executive Committee of the North East Association of Advisors for the Health Professions. In addition the AAMC invited her to participate in MRS, the 5th Comprehensive Review of the Medical College Admission Test.

**T**he New Jersey Academy of Family Physicians selected Terri Nordin, MD, chief resident, RWJMS Family Medicine Residency, as Chief Resident of the Year.

**Six Students Accepted by Year-Away Research Programs**

Six RWJMS students have been accepted into prestigious research programs for the upcoming academic year. Five are in their third year: Samhita Bhargava, a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Research Fellow, will do her work at the University of California at San Francisco, and Minyoung Jang will work at the National Institutes of Health. The NIH-Clinical Research Training Program. Three students will spend the year as Doris Duke Clinical Research Fellows: Randy D’Amico, Samira Farouk and Sirisha Jonnalagadda. They will work at Columbia University, the University of Pennsylvania, and Mount Sinai School of Medicine, respectively. “This is the second consecutive year in which we have had three students accepted into the highly competitive and prestigious Doris Duke Fellows Program,” says David Seiden, PhD, professor of neuroscience and cell biology and associate dean for student affairs. Second-year student Stephen Rosenberg, a participant in the new RWJMS Master’s in Clinical and Translational Sciences Program, has been accepted into the Howard Hughes Medical Institute Research Fellows Program. He will do his work with James Goydos, MD ’88, associate professor of surgery at RWJMS.

**Symposium Spotlights Appreciation of Science**

On March 23, the Stuart D. Cook, MD, Master Educators’ Guild of UMDNJ presented its spring symposium, “Seeing the Forest and the Trees: Science Foundations for Health Professionals.” The event took place on the Piscataway campus and included faculty from a wide variety of institutions. In panels and workshops, they addressed the recent report of the Association of American Medical Colleges and Howard Hughes Medical Institute, “Scientific Foundations for Future Physicians.” The symposium was co-sponsored by the Center for Continuing and Outreach Education and Science Education for New Civic Engagements and Responsibilities, better known as SENCER. A central issue was the question of how much memorized scientific knowledge should be required of students in health-related careers. More important, the recent report suggests, is the encouragement of scientific curiosity among students and an appreciation of the relevance of science throughout society. “Medical schools still follow the principles of the Flexner report, which established the model medical school curriculum a century ago, when the body of scientific knowledge was totally different,” says Master Educator Nancy Walworth, PhD, professor of pharmacology, who helped organize the symposium. “Today, the science underlying medicine evolves so quickly, that scientific curiosity, not memorization, is what will translate to good patient care.”

**Student Government Association Adds Spice to Life**

The Student Government Association (SGA) is an umbrella for all student groups and serves as the students’ liaison to the RWJMS administration. “We represent the big picture for students,” says Kelvin Adjei-Twum ’12, past president, SGA. SGA student leaders from every year — on both campuses — represent the full spectrum of student needs and priorities. The board plans activities with input from other student organizations, ranging from the local chapter of the Student National Medical Association to the Homeless and Indigent Population Health Outreach Project (HIPHOP), to special interest groups.

At the SGA-sponsored Fourth-Year Residency Panel, recently matched students speak about the match process and answer questions about choosing a specialty. SGA presents wellness workshops in various community venues, joined by a multidisciplinary team of RWJMS students and students from medical careers programs at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. Study breaks this year included a ski trip and the annual formal, while a “Mr. RWJ” contest raised $400 for the pediatric oncology unit at The Cancer Institute of New Jersey. Richard LeBano ’13 is the new SGA president.
HIPHOP 5K Event Helps Underserved

A brisk April morning turned warm and bright for 180 participants—an all-time high—in this year’s HIPHOP Fun Walk/Run. The annual event raised more than $84,000 to support clinical care and programs the medically underserved.

St. John’s Family Health Center is the primary recipient of funds, which also assist HIPHOP programs such as The Promise Clinic and the Community Health Initiative.

The RWJMS Alumni Association contributed $2,500 to the event. "We couldn’t do it without the help of our community," says HIPHOP Project Outreach Student Coordinator Adriana Martin ’12, noting the support of event registrants and the generosity of sponsors, including area businesses.

Take Me Out to Le Grand Cirque!

A joyful day for pediatric patients in the Robert Wood Johnson AIDS Program (RWJAP) was ensured by medical students participating in the Distinguished Service to the Community (DISC) program. DISC students along with first-year students interested in applying for the program raised funds and accompanied the children on the RWJMS Pediatric Interest Group-Project ALIVE outing. The children enjoyed lunch courtesy of Chipotle Mexican Grill in New Brunswick and an afternoon at a performance by Le Grand Cirque at the State Theatre in New Brunswick.

Molly Nadelson ’11 and Ariana Trifono ’11 initiated the project in 2008. Project ALIVE is a DISC project designed to increase medical students’ understanding of children and youth living with chronic illnesses, while providing a venue that supports patients and increases their social skills and life skills.

Governor’s Council Awards Nearly $1M for Autism Studies

The New Jersey Governor’s Council for Medical Research and Treatment of Autism awarded a $469,636 grant to a team led by Michael Lewis, PhD, University Distinguished Professor of Pediatrics and Psychiatry, for a study titled, “Self Representation and Brain Development in Autism.” The council awarded $469,550 to Harvey Weiss, PhD, professor of physiology and biophysics, for his study titled, “Autism and Control of Cerebral Metabolism.”

Dean’s Research Awards: Best of The Best

On May 12, Peter S. Amenta, MD, PhD, dean, recognized leading scientists in the RWJMS community for their achievements in research. The morning-long event, held on the Piscataway campus, featured two open poster sessions in the Great Hall.

Keynotes speaker Sally L. Hodder, MD, professor and vice chair, Department of Medicine, UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School, spoke on “Current Issues in the U.S. HIV Epidemic.”

The 2009 Dean’s Research and Mentoring Awards were presented in the following categories:

• Best Publication by a Graduate Student: Yvette Pittman, PhD
• Best Publication by a Graduate Student: Daria Gaykalova, PhD
• Best Publication by a Postdoctoral Fellow: Manjula Pandey, PhD
• Best Publication by Faculty, Basic Sciences: Shengkan Victor Jin, PhD, associate professor of pharmacology
• Best Publication by an MD/PhD Student: Peter Mazari
• Best Publication by a Resident: Amar Rewari, MD
• Best Publication by Faculty, Clinical Sciences: M. Maral Mouradian, MD, William Dow Lovett Professor of Neurology
• R. Walter Schlesinger Basic Science Mentoring Award: Aaron Shatkin, PhD, professor of molecular genetics, microbiology and immunology and director, Center for Advanced Biotechnology and Medicine

• Norman H. Edelman Clinical Science Mentoring Award: Bruce Haffty, MD, professor and chair, Department of Radiation Oncology

CINJ Researchers Report Recent Findings

Elliot J. Coups, PhD, associate professor of medicine, a behavioral scientist at The Cancer Institute of New Jersey, was lead author of a recent study on screening rates for skin cancer, the most common of all cancers. The study focused on screening among middle-aged and older Caucasian adults, a group with an increasing mortality rate for melanoma. Dr. Coups and his colleagues found that, among people over 50, those who did not finish high school or have not recently had screenings for other common cancers are also less likely to be screened for skin cancer of all cancers. The findings were published in the online edition of the American Journal of Medicine 123(5).

In their latest research on the role of genetics in cancer, a group led by Kim M. Hirshfield, MD ’99, PhD, assistant professor of medicine, studied the tumor-suppressor gene TSC1. The group evaluated blood samples from more than 1,000 women for the presence of genetic changes in the DNA sequence of the gene. Their findings show that while the presence of a specific DNA change does not affect the age at which breast cancer is diagnosed in young patients, it does appear to delay disease onset in postmenopausal women. They note the presence of this genetic change likely makes TSC1 more sensitive to the effects of low amounts of estrogens found in women who are postmenopausal and confers a protective benefit by reducing the amount of cell growth.