

DEAR FACULTY, STAFF, ALUMNI AND FRIENDS,

BEFORE WE BEGIN A NEW ACADEMIC YEAR, I want to update you on a number of developments in our school that set the stage for important objectives that lie ahead, as well as describe to you recent accomplishments that reflect positively on the efforts of our faculty and staff.

SUNY REACH INITIATIVE.

Over the past 15 months, David Dunn, MD, PhD, vice president for health sciences, and I have been meeting with leaders of the three other Academic Health Centers (AHCs) in the State University of New York (SUNY) system to look at ways we can achieve excellence through collaboration. Like UB, each of these three AHCs—Upstate Medical University (Syracuse), Downstate Medical Center (Brooklyn), and Stony Brook University—has strengths in biomedical research that could be enhanced nationally and internationally through a more strategically organized SUNY AHC system.

The initiative we are collaborating on is called SUNY REACH (Research Excellence in ACademic Health). Its goal is to grow biomedical research in four specific areas of human health: (1) cancer, (2) infectious diseases/emerging pathogens, (3) disorders of the nervous system, and (4) diabetes and cardiovascular diseases.

The initiative seeks to establish collaborative processes and shared resources to support this goal.

The resources would include support for shared faculty hires, purchase of shared core equipment and the leveraging of existing strengths in information technologies, such as those available through UB's New York State Center of Excellence in Bioinformatics and Life Sciences.

Shared processes would include such things as collaborative planning for grant funding (with a focus on the three areas of inter-



campus collaborations already in existence: vision, neuroscience and clinical and translational research); working toward a single institutional review board for research involving human subjects; simplifying and streamlining how SUNY Research Foundation approves clinical trials; and developing a SUNY Intranet.

As the SUNY REACH initiative is further refined in the months ahead, I will provide you with more details on how it will enhance our school's biomedical research goals and objectives.

Also in regard to our school's research efforts, I am pleased to report that Timothy F. Murphy, MD, UB Distinguished

Professor of Medicine and chief of the Division of Infectious Diseases, recently accepted an appointment as the inaugural senior associate dean for clinical and translational research in the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. To learn more about Dr. Murphy's background and his stellar qualifications for this critically important position in our school, I refer you to page 32 in this issue of *Buffalo Physician*.

STIMULUS GRANT APPLICATIONS. As many of you are aware, as part of the Obama administration's economic stimulus plan—formally known as the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009—the National Institutes of Health

(NIH) has been allocated funding that it is charged with dispersing through a competitive awards process.

This spring, faculty in our school submitted a number of these grant applications, many of which involve collaborations with our colleagues at Roswell Park Cancer Institute (RPCI) and Hauptman Woodward Medical Research Institute (HWI).

These efforts resulted in the three institutions, combined, submitting 130 Challenge Grants, which represent a new RC1 program that will support research in areas that address specific challenges and that would benefit from two-year "jumpstart" funds; 46 Administrative Supplement grants, which provide researchers with funds to accelerate the tempo of their research on active grants, with the goal of promoting job creation and economic development; 12 Competitive Revision grants, which support grants that were submitted in the previous year, but did not receive fundable scores; two P30 Core Center grants, which support the hiring of newly recruited faculty to develop research projects within the context of Biomedical Core Centers; four Shared Instrumentation Grants, which fund the purchase or upgrading of instruments, as well as one R21 grant and one RC2 Grand Opportunity Grant (for detailed descriptions of all these categories, visit the NIH's website at www.nih.gov/ and click on the "Recovery and Reinvestment" tab).

I'm pleased to report that a scientist in UB's Research Institute on Addictions was among the first to receive NIH stimulus funding through this process. To read more about the award, which supports several laboratory positions related to research on the relationship between impulsivity and drug abuse, visit the UB NewsCenter website at www.buffalo.edu/news and search the name of the principal investigator, Jerry Richards, PhD.

ACCREDITATION REVIEWS. Another important development I want to update you on is our school's preparation for its standard eight-year review by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME), the accreditation body of the Association for American Medical Colleges.

The site visit by the LCME will take place in October 2010. Many of our faculty and staff have been immersed for several months in tasks related to preparing for this, such as reviewing the school's policies and procedures to ensure that they are updated

and meet with the approval of the Faculty Council and other governance bodies.

This July we began a yearlong self-assessment process structured by the LCME in which we were given guidelines and a series of questions we need to answer in order to discover areas where we are robust or where we need to improve, after which we will develop a plan to redress the latter areas for presentation to the visiting team for its assessment.

While this process is under way for the education of our medical students, it was recently successfully completed for our school's graduate medical education (GME) program, which is led by Roseanne Berger, MD.

In April, the Accreditation Council on Graduate Medical Education awarded our school four years of continued accreditation, which reflects confidence in UB's oversight of resident education and the overall quality of its programs.

MATCH DAY AND CLASS SIZE. As the 2008–2009 academic year came to a close, I was reminded of the many outstanding achievements attained by our students.

This year's Match Day results showed that UB's medical students are increasingly successful at earning positions in highly competitive GME programs, and I was very pleased to see that 29 of our students opted to stay and train at UB as one such institution. To review the list of where our 135 students matched this year and to share in the excitement of this day, turn to page 20.

Four years from now, when the Match List for the Class of 2013 is published, an additional five students will be graduating, as this year we have expanded our medical school class size to 140. We anticipate this incoming class to be one of our strongest to date, a clear indication of the effort our dedicated faculty and staff make to provide an educational experience that attracts young people to our school who are motivated to train as highly qualified physicians and scientists.

MICHAEL E. CAIN, MD

Dean, School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences