Michael E. Cain, MD, Named Dean

The appointment of Michael E. Cain, MD, as dean of the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences at the University at Buffalo was announced on August 16, 2006, by David L. Dunn, MD, PhD, UB vice president for health sciences.

The UB School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, working with the other four health sciences approaches to medical education and innovative biomedical research. We are very excited to welcome Dr. Cain to the University at Buffalo,

UB President John B. Simpson observed that “since UB’s establishment as a medical school faculty 160 years ago, the university’s medical-school leaders have been called upon to balance several demanding roles—they must be not only skilled and effective in the administrative world, but also thorough ly versed in research, clinical practice and education. 

“We have found a truly exemplary candidate in Dr. Cain, who is equal parts distinguished scholar, accomplished clinician, dedicated educator and experienced medical administrator,” Simpson added.

“The search for this position attracted a large pool of very impressive candidates, from which Dr. Cain emerged as a truly ideal fit for UB, with the vision and expertise to take UB’s School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences to even greater heights of excellence in the 21st century.

“We are delighted to have secured a medical dean of his caliber, which we view as a testament to the direction in which our medical school and the university as a whole are headed.”

Cain stated that “a hallmark of a leading school of medicine is the appreciation by faculty and staff that innovative, interdisciplinary approaches are required to advance patient care, biomedical research and education. I was attracted to UB because the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, working with the other four health sciences schools, is well positioned to further its leadership role in American and international medicine.

“As important, I sensed the work environment at UB to be one focused on achievement of excellence through internal collaboration and cooperation. This favorable ‘work code’ was palpable during my initial visit and reinforced during subsequent visits to the university.”

Addressing the university’s UB 2020 strategic planning process, Cain added “The School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences will be a major contributor to many of the strategic initiatives. I hope to take advantage of the enthusiasm that attends innovative strategic planning to energize a talented faculty and staff to implement innovative, interdisciplinary approaches to medicine and science that facilitate fundamental scientific discovery, to develop new technology platforms, to promote early verification and proof-of-concept studies in human subjects and to design definitive clinical trials that lead to new medical, social and economic approaches to health-care delivery and education.

“The faculty and staff of the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, and all who live in Buffalo and Western New York benefit from and deserve the best possible school of medicine.”

Maurizio Trevisan, MD, dean of the UB School of Public Health and Health Professions, was chair of the search committee.

Trevisan said the committee “was very impressed with Dr. Cain’s qualifications and vision for the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences.”

He pointed out that “under Dr. Cain’s leadership, the Division of Cardiology at Washington University has grown substantially and has established itself as one of the premier divisions of cardiology in the country, both in terms of research and clinical care. Dr. Cain’s energy, vision and leadership skills will serve well the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences and the university as a whole and help the medical school and the other schools that are part of UB’s academic health center to achieve their goals of academic excellence.”

Cain stated that “a hallmark of a leading school of medicine is the appreciation by faculty and staff that innovative, interdisciplinary approaches are required to advance patient care, biomedical research and education. I was attracted to UB because the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, working with the other four health sciences schools, is well positioned to further its leadership role in American and international medicine.

“As important, I sensed the work environment at UB to be one focused on achievement of excellence through internal collaboration and cooperation. This favorable ‘work code’ was palpable during my initial visit and reinforced during subsequent visits to the university.”

Addressing the university’s UB 2020 strategic planning process, Cain added “The School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences will be a major contributor to many of the strategic initiatives. I hope to take advantage of the enthusiasm that attends innovative strategic planning to energize a talented faculty and staff to implement innovative, interdisciplinary approaches to medicine and science that facilitate fundamental scientific discovery, to develop new technology platforms, to promote early verification and proof-of-concept studies in human subjects and to design definitive clinical trials that lead to new medical, social and economic approaches to health-care delivery and education.

“The faculty and staff of the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, and all who live in Buffalo and Western New York benefit from and deserve the best possible school of medicine.”

Maurizio Trevisan, MD, dean of the UB School of Public Health and Health Professions, was chair of the search committee.

Trevisan said the committee “was very impressed with Dr. Cain’s qualifications and vision for the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences.”

He pointed out that “under Dr. Cain’s leadership, the Division of Cardiology at Washington University has grown substantially and has established itself as one of the premier divisions of cardiology in the country, both in terms of research and clinical care. Dr. Cain’s energy, vision and leadership skills will serve well the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences and the university as a whole and help the medical school and the other schools that are part of UB’s academic health center to achieve their goals of academic excellence.”

A cum laude graduate of Gettysburg College, Cain received his medical degree from George Washington University School of Medicine in Washington, DC. He completed his training in internal medicine at Barnes Hospital/Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. His postgraduate training in cardiovascular diseases included appointments as a research fellow, clinical cardiology fellow and research instructor, all in the Cardiovascular Division at Washington University School of Medicine. He also served as a clinical/research fellow in the Clinical Cardiac Electrophysiology Laboratory at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine in Philadelphia.
Cain joined the Washington University School of Medicine faculty in 1981 as assistant professor of medicine. He was promoted to associate professor in 1987. In 1993, he was promoted to professor of medicine and named the director of the Cardiovascular Division. He has been the Tobias and Hertstein Lowin Professor of Medicine since 1994 and a professor of biomedical engineering since 1999. He also is president of the board of directors of the Heart Care Institute, as well as director of arrhythmia services, for the Washington University School of Medicine, Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis. He is certified as a diplomate by the American Board of Internal Medicine in internal medicine, cardiovascular diseases and in clinical cardiac electrophysiology and pacing.

Cain is a fellow of the American College of Cardiology, Council on Clinical Cardiology of the American Heart Association and the Heart Rhythm Society. A past president of the Association of Professors of Cardiology and the board of trustees of the Heart Rhythm Society (formerly the North American Society of Pacing and Electrophysiology), he is chairman of the board of directors of the Sarnoff Endowment for Cardiovascular Science. He is a past president of the board of directors of the Missouri Chapter of the American College of Cardiology and the board of directors of the St. Louis Chapter of the American Heart Association.

Previously associate editor of Circulation, Cain is a member of the editorial boards of the American Journal of Cardiology, Journal of Cardiovascular Electrophysiology, Journal of the American College of Cardiology and Heart Rhythm.

Awards that he has received include the Hans-Peter Kragendburg Memorial Award for Research in Cardiac Function from the International Academy of Cardiology, the American Heart Association’s Arthur E. Starling Award and the Outstanding Researcher of the Year presented by the American Heart Association’s Missouri Award Executive Committee.

Cain has held numerous invited professorships and lectureships across the U.S. and abroad. His research has been directed at determining the electrophysiological and structural determinants of ventricular tachycardia and fibrillation in the setting of healed myocardial infarction or cardiomyopathy to improve nonpharmacological procedures for arrhythmia ablation by characterizing and localizing the tissue critical to arrhythmogenesis, and to provide the pathophysiological foundation needed to refine methods of ECG analysis that will improve the identification of patients at risk for sudden cardiac death. His research has been funded consistently by the National Institutes of Health since 1984.

Cain has authored or coauthored more than 80 peer-reviewed manuscripts and more than 50 invited publications.

Under Dr. Cain’s leadership, the Division of Cardiology at Washington University has grown substantially and has established itself as one of the premier divisions of cardiology in the country, both in terms of research and clinical care.  

The staff reserves the right to edit all submissions for clarity and length.


Teresa Bihan, PhD, in molecular pharmacology and cancer therapeutics, being hooded by her major professor, Athena Lin, PhD. Also pictured is Arthur Mitchell, PhD, dean and senior vice president for educational affairs at Roswell Park Cancer Institute. Turn to page 30 for more on hoods ceremony and commencement ceremonies.