

the PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

MAY 2020



TAKE TIME TO TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF

It's been eight weeks since we moved from in-person and on-campus to a virtual coexistence. While I had hoped this letter would be a welcome back, I am glad to know that we are all doing the best we can for each other and our University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) community by staying home as much as possible. By following guidance to limit the spread of COVID-19, we are creating a healthier tomorrow. It's in that same vein — of staying healthy — that I wanted to check in. In the midst of this not-normal, but now somewhat routine schedule, self-care becomes increasingly important.

The COVID pandemic can be overwhelming and seems all-encompassing, and our new way of working and living brings with it added stressors. Our front-line responders are caring for those affected in incredibly intense and stressful conditions, putting their lives on the line, and often limiting interaction with their own families to keep them safe. But the vast majority of us are working from home, relying more on technology, and juggling family, parenting, and household responsibilities. Boredom, loneliness, tension, and general worry affect us, and there is much uncertainty.



DR. JARRELL SAYS TAKING TIME OUT OF HIS DAY TO WORK IN HIS BLACKSMITH SHOP HELPS TO KEEP HIM CENTERED.

To counteract this, we need to find and practice self-care and coping mechanisms. Setting a schedule that includes meals, time

for fresh air, and doing something you enjoy are all important strategies for self-care. A way to start is to think about what activities keep you centered.

Many of you know that I enjoy working with metal as a hobby. Blacksmithing brings me joy and allows me to relax. I wake up each morning and work in my blacksmith shop for a bit. I find starting my day this way centers me, especially knowing that each day of this pandemic brings new challenges and unexpected changes. The routine of allowing myself a few moments on something I enjoy allows me to better support UMB.

Is there part of the “old-normal” that you can take a few moments for? Appreciating spring flowers while walking the dog, enjoying a cup of coffee in the morning, reading (non-COVID-related) articles and books, exercise or an artistic outlet? When we take a few moments — even if it is just a few — to focus on ourselves, it helps relieve some of the anxiety and tension that this very stressful period brings.

Is there something new you can do? Could you join a fitness class? URecFit has an array of online fitness and wellness options that are free to the UMB community on a dedicated page, **Virtual URecFit and Wellness**. The UMB community also can visit 2020recreationmovement.com and participate in free online fitness classes — and if competition fuels you, log your minutes and help UMB fight for the No. 1 ranking.

Launch Your Life, UMB's hub for work-life and wellness resources, has created a **UMB COVID-19 Coping Kit** that includes resources for resilience, movement, and maintaining mental health, as well as tips for parents and strategies to manage stress. The **Employee Assistance Program** also is available for support. (See page 9.)

Are you using technology not only for instruction and work functions, but also to connect with friends and family? Watching a movie together, participating in online religious services, or playing games allows us to take a few moments to connect differently. Whether taking time to do something new alone or reaching out to friends and family, making the effort to focus on something other than COVID-19, something that brings you joy and centers you, can help build resilience. I am proud of how UMB has risen to the ever-changing challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. As individuals and as UMB, we are building that resilience.

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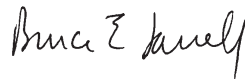
After all, we are in this together. Whether we are treating COVID-19 patients, researching and evaluating therapies, moving to online instruction, coordinating and delivering help to those in need, or supporting our families, we are striving for success amidst unprecedented challenges. Now I know that we do not always have the luxury of time with our many responsibilities and responses to this crisis, but I hope that you will commit to taking at least five minutes today to acknowledge your own feelings and strength, and to focus on you.

While there are many unknowns, you can expect that our current telework plan will continue into the summer. I will continue to share regular updates with you. As a University, we are looking toward the future while working in this ever-changing present, by preparing for strategic recovery from COVID-19, restoring key operations when possible, and

seeking opportunities to advance, grow, evolve, and innovate to strengthen UMB in the long term.

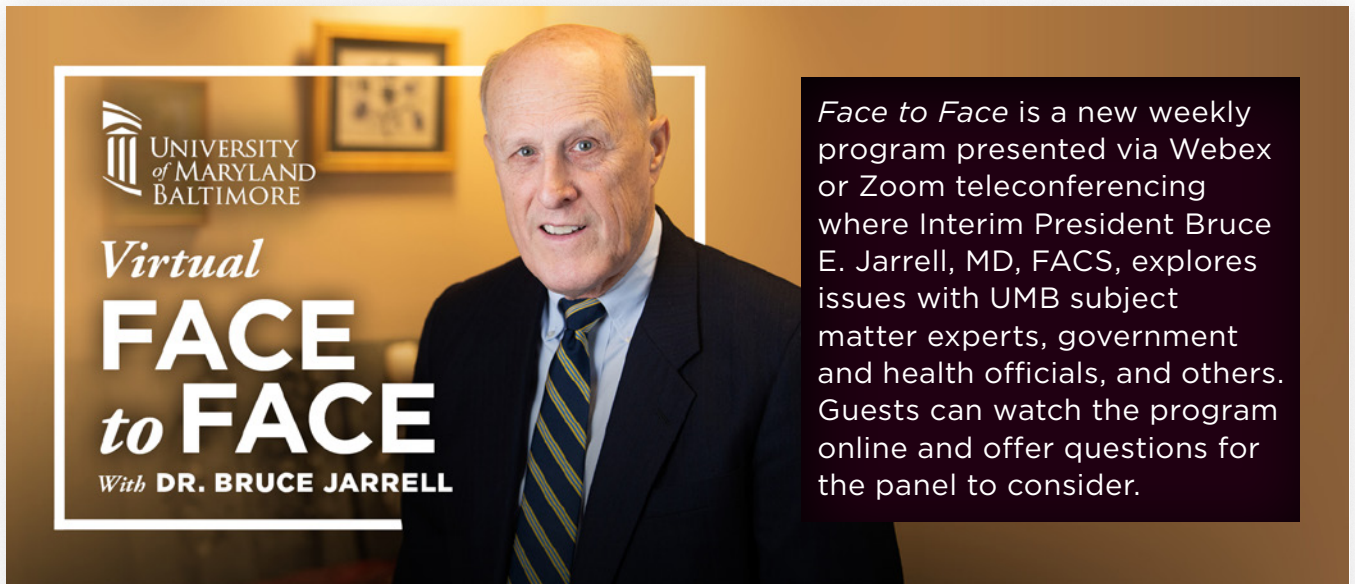
Our Core Values guide us to ensure the safety of our students, staff, faculty, and visitors; maintain our high standards in educating our students; and value the contributions of our people — our most important asset. So please, take time today to remember that you are an asset. Developing a plan for self-care is not a selfish endeavor. We can better care for, educate, learn from, and work with others by taking care of ourselves.

Stay well,



Bruce E. Jarrell, MD, FACS
INTERIM PRESIDENT

For information and resources on COVID-19, go to umaryland.edu/coronavirus



UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND BALTIMORE

Virtual
FACE to FACE
With **DR. BRUCE JARRELL**

Face to Face is a new weekly program presented via Webex or Zoom teleconferencing where Interim President Bruce E. Jarrell, MD, FACS, explores issues with UMB subject matter experts, government and health officials, and others. Guests can watch the program online and offer questions for the panel to consider.

Watch previous programs and learn more at umaryland.edu/president/face-to-face.

LAURELS

MAY 2020

SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY



GLENN CANARES



SYDNEE CHAVIS

Glenn Canares, DDS, MSD, clinical assistant professor, Department of Orthodontics and Pediatric Dentistry, and **Sydnee Chavis, DMD**, clinical assistant professor, Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, co-authored “The Transition of Patients with Special Health Care Needs From Pediatric to Adult-Based Dental Care: A Scoping Review,” which was published in *Pediatric Dentistry*.



HANPING FENG



YONGRONG ZHAN

Hanping Feng, PhD, professor, Department of Microbial Pathogenesis, received two R01 grants from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases for “Characterization of Neutralizing Antitoxins and Epitopes in *Clostridium difficile* Patients” and “Preventing Norovirus and *Clostridium difficile* Gastroenteritis by Engineered

Probiotic Yeast *Saccharomyces boulardii* Secreting Multi-Specific Single-Domain Antibodies.” Feng and **Yongrong Zhan, PhD**, research associate, Department of Microbial Pathogenesis, received a patent for “Tetra-Specific, Octameric Binding Agents and Antibodies Against *Clostridium difficile* Toxin A and Toxin B for Treatment of *C. difficile* Infection.”

Mary Anne Melo, DDS, MSc, PhD, associate professor and director, Division of Operative Dentistry, Department of General Dentistry, was among the co-authors of “Cerium Dioxide Particles to Tune Radiopacity of Dental Adhesives: Microstructural and Physico-Chemical Evaluation,” which was published in the *Journal of Functional Biomaterials*.

CAREY SCHOOL OF LAW

Leigh Goodmark, JD, professor and co-director, Clinical Law Program, was the co-author of “Domestic Violence Is Also a Virus: During the Coronavirus Crisis, We Need the Right Criminal Justice Response to the Crime,” which was published in the *New York Daily News* on March 26.

Michael Greenberger, JD, professor and director, Center for Health and Homeland Security, was interviewed for “Trump’s ‘Back-to-Work’ Plan Would Only Make Things Worse, Experts Say,” which was published in *The Guardian* on March 24.

Kathleen Hoke, JD, professor and director, Legal Resource Center for



KATHLEEN HOKE

Public Health Policy, was quoted in “The World Pushes Back Against E-Cigarettes and Juul,” which was published in *The New York Times* on March 30.

Robert Percival, JD, professor and director, Environmental Law Program, presented “Transnational Environmental Accountability” at the 2020 Joint Conference of the Australasian Environmental Law Enforcement and Regulators Network and the International Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement in Australia on March 12.



RENA STEINZOR

Rena Steinzor, JD, professor, was quoted in “Greens, Health Groups Fear Pandemic Eases Path for Trump EPA Rollbacks,” which was published in

Politico on March 20.



BEVERLY WINSTEAD

Beverly Winstead, JD, director, Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic, was interviewed on the subject “Tax Planning and the Coronavirus Pandemic” on the

Tax Notes podcast on March 24.

LAURELS ARE SUBMITTED BY THE COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENTS OF THE SCHOOLS AS WELL AS BY REPRESENTATIVES IN VARIOUS UNIVERSITY-WIDE OFFICES. THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ERRORS IN THESE SELF-SUBMITTED LAURELS.

LAURELS

MAY 2020

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

The following is a select list. For all the SOM laurels, visit www.somnews.umaryland.edu.

Thiago Bernardino De Almeida, visiting research fellow, Department of Pharmacology, was highlighted in *Suincultura Industrial*, a Brazilian newspaper, for his collaborative research with the Center for Epigenetic Research in Child Health and Brain Development in examining how the welfare of male breeding pigs can impact the epigenetic markers in their semen and the consequences to their offspring.



DAVID DREIZIN



GUANG LI

David Dreizin, MD, associate professor, and **Guang Li, PhD**, assistant professor, both from the Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, were among the co-authors of “Deep Learning-Based Quantitative Visualization and Measurement of Extraperitoneal Hematoma Volumes in Patients with Pelvic Fractures: Potential Role in Personalized Forecasting and Decision Support,” which was published in the *Journal of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery*.

Reha Erzurumlu, PhD, professor, Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology, received a five-year, \$2.5 million R01 grant renewal from

the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke for “Consequences of Developmental Defects in Somatosensory Map Formation.”



REHA ERZURUMLU



XIAOFENG JIA

Xiaofeng Jia, BM, PhD, professor, Department of Neurosurgery, was elected as chair of the Society of Critical Care Medicine’s (SCCM) Research Section Board.

SCCM is a large, multidisciplinary community with 16,000 members in more than 100 countries.

Niharika Khanna, MBBS, MD, DGO, professor, Department of Family and Community Medicine, was the author of “Complexities in

Integrating Social Risk Assessment into Health Care Delivery,” which was published in the *Journal of the American Board of Family Medicine*.



NIHARIKA KHANNA



ANTONINO PASSANITI

Antonino Passaniti, PhD, professor, Department of Pathology, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, received a four-year, \$1,198,154

VA Merit Award for “Mitochondrial Metabolism as a Target of Breast Cancer Therapy.”

Jonathan VanRyzin, PhD, postdoctoral fellow; **Ashley Marquardt**, graduate research assistant; and **Margaret McCarthy, PhD**,



MARGARET MCCARTHY

the James and Carolyn Frenkil Dean’s Professor and chair, Department of Pharmacology, were co-authors of “Developmental Origins of Sex Differences in the Neural Circuitry of Play,” which was published in the *International Journal of Play*.

Yan Wang, MD, DrPH, associate professor, Department of Pediatrics, and **Maureen Black, PhD**, the John A. Scholl, MD, and Mary Louise Scholl, MD, Professor in Pediatrics, were co-authors of “Longitudinal Bidirectional Relations Between Body Dissatisfaction and Depressive Symptoms Among Black Adolescents: A Cross-Lagged Panel Analysis,” which was published in *PLoS One*.

SCHOOL OF NURSING

The **University of Maryland Association of Nursing Students (UMANS)** received the Stellar School Chapter recognition award from the National Student Nurses’ Association (NSNA). The award recognizes NSNA school chapters that demonstrate ongoing involvement in the association, including a strong commitment to shared governance and professional development of students and faculty.

LAURELS

MAY 2020



SUSAN G. DORSEY



CYNTHIA RENN

Susan G. Dorsey, PhD '01, MS '98, RN, professor and chair, Department of Pain and Translational Symptom Science, and **Cynthia Renn, PhD, MS '97, RN, FAAN**, associate professor, co-authored two book chapters: “Nociceptive Processing: Neurochemistry and Neurophysiology,” which was published in *Pain Care Essentials*; and “Cancer-Related Neuropathies and Neuropathic Pain,” written with alumna **Gee Su Yang, PhD '17**, and published in *Cancer Survivorship: Transdisciplinary, Patient-Centered Approaches to the Seasons of Survival*.



VERONICA P. NJIE-CARR



PHYLLIS SHARPS

Veronica P. Njie-Carr, PhD, RN, ACNS-BC, FWACN, associate professor, co-authored the book *Disparities in the Academy: Accounting for the Elephant* with **Phyllis Sharps, PhD '88, BSN '79, RN, FAAN**, a School of Nursing Visionary Pioneer, and another colleague. The book focuses on the importance of addressing inequities associated with sexism, racism, and their intersectionalities.

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

Laura Bozzi, graduate student, Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research, received a one-year, \$43,070 grant from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality for “The Association of Antiretroviral Treatment and Early Menopause in Women Aging with HIV.”



LAURA BOZZI

Bethany DiPaola, PharmD, professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, was named a fellow of the American Society of Health System Pharmacists.



BETHANY DIPAULA

Susan dosReis, PhD, professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research, was named one of *The Daily Record's* Top 100 Women.



SUSAN DOSREIS

Alex MacKerell, PhD, the Grollman-Glick Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences and director, Computer-Aided



ALEX MACKERELL

Drug Design Center, was selected to receive the 2020 International Society of Quantum Biology and Pharmacology Award in Computational Biology.

Ryan Pearson, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, received a one-year, \$35,000 Innovative Collaboration Pilot Grant from the University of Maryland, Baltimore's Institute for Clinical and Translational Research for “Engineering B Cell Modulating Vaccines for T Cell Cancer Immunotherapy.”



RYAN PEARSON

Magaly Rodriguez de Bittner, PharmD, professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science; associate dean, clinical services and practice transformation; and director, Center for Innovative Pharmacy Solutions, received a one-year, \$10,000 contract from emocha Mobile Health for “emocha Mobile Health Task Order #1.”



MAGALY RODRIGUEZ DE BITTNER

Jana Shen, PhD, professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, and co-director, Computer-Aided Drug Design Center, received



JANA SHEN

LAURELS

MAY 2020

a three-year, \$162,000 contract from the University of Maryland, College Park for “Electrofabricated Thin Films for Redox-Linked Bioelectronics.”

Chanel Whittaker, PharmD, associate professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, and director of education and training, Peter Lamy Center on Drug Therapy and Aging, was accepted into the American Geriatrics Society’s Emerging Leaders in Aging Program.



BRUCE YU

Bruce Yu, PhD, professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, and director, Bio- and Nano-Technology Center, received a one-year, \$224,728

contract from the National Institute for Innovation in Manufacturing Biopharmaceuticals for “Noninvasive PAT for Aluminum-Adjuvanted Vaccine and Lyophilized Biologics.”

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK



DAVID CRUMPTON

David Crumpton, PhD, adjunct faculty member, was approved for a Fulbright Scholar grant to cover four months of teaching at Yangon University in Myanmar and a

research collaboration with ActionAid-Myanmar. His research will continue his work regarding village-level participatory planning and community development in Myanmar’s post-conflict states and regions.



SARAH DABABNAH

Sarah Dababnah, PhD, assistant professor, was invited by the Transforming Autism Care Consortium to present her research on programs for caregivers of young

children with autism. The consortium is a research network connecting Canadian researchers focused on improving the lives of individuals with autism and their families.



CAROLINE HARMON-DARROW

Caroline Harmon-Darrow, MSW, PhD candidate, was lead author of “Defining Inclusive Mediation: Theory, Practice, and Research,”

which was published in *Conflict Resolution Quarterly*.



THEDA ROSE

Theda Rose, PhD, MSW, assistant professor, and two co-investigators received almost \$100,000 in National Institutes of Health funding to

explore psychosocial problems, positive development, and educational outcomes among black youth.

Lane Victorson, MSW, clinical field instructor, and **Kimberly Street, MSW**, clinical faculty field instructor, were among the co-authors of “Library-Based Field Placements: Meeting the Diverse Needs of Patrons, Including Those Experiencing Homelessness,” which was published in the *Journal of Social Work Education*.

LEADERSHIP

MAY 2020

JUDY POSTMUS NAMED SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK DEAN

The University of Maryland School of Social Work (UMSSW) will welcome a new dean on July 1: Judy L. Postmus, PhD, MSW, who is leaving her position as professor and associate dean for research and faculty development at the Rutgers University School of Social Work.

University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) Interim President Bruce E. Jarrell announced Postmus' hiring on April 24, calling it "good news not only for UMB, but for the larger community we serve as well. Dr. Postmus will play a large role in helping us meet the challenges we face coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic and to seize the opportunities as well."

Postmus, a nationally recognized scholar on violence against women and children, said she was excited to join UMSSW and humbled to be selected.

"I look forward to the opportunities that await the school as we partner with others to address economic, racial, and environmental justice in Baltimore and beyond," Postmus said. "With the faculty, staff, and students at the School of Social Work along with colleagues across UMB, we will strive for excellence in all that we do while being inclusive and engaging with the local, state, national, and global communities."

Postmus will succeed Richard P. Barth, PhD, MSW, who has served as UMSSW dean since 2006. Barth, who will remain on staff as a full-time faculty member, said he was delighted to welcome Postmus as his successor.

"Judy is a leading scholar and administrator at Rutgers — the school of social work probably most like ours — and has high esteem in the social work field," Barth said. "I admire her pluck in deciding to take on such a big job at a time like this and look forward to assisting her in whatever ways she asks."

Donald B. Tobin, JD, dean and professor at the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law, chaired the search committee that selected Postmus. "Dr. Postmus is an excellent teacher and scholar and someone who has spent her career leveraging her research and teaching excellence with service to the community," Tobin said. "She brings to the school a passion for teaching and student success as well as a deep commitment to research and community engagement."

Postmus began her tenure at Rutgers in 2006. She previously worked at the University of Kansas School of Social Welfare, the State University of New York (SUNY) at Albany School of Social Welfare, and The Union Institute in Miami, Fla. Her

research has focused on the physical, sexual, and economic victimization of women.

At Rutgers, she founded and directed the Center on Violence Against Women and Children, which works to eliminate physical, sexual, and other forms of violence against women and children and the power imbalances that permit them, through multidisciplinary research, education, and community engagement.

In 2016, Postmus received a grant from the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), within the U.S. Department of Justice, to create the Rutgers Violence Against Women Research Consortium.

This group works with interdisciplinary and NIJ researchers to identify, implement, and disseminate research and evaluation projects that fill the gaps in knowledge on intimate partner violence, sexual violence, stalking, and teen dating violence.

Born and raised in Miami to immigrant parents, Postmus says she always wanted to help those who are oppressed based on race, gender, and class. She began her service work with at-risk youth and their families in the 1980s in Liberty City, Fla., an environment where racism and poverty were rampant and violence erupted in response in this disenfranchised community.

After earning her MSW degree from Barry University in 1990, she worked at Miami Bridge, a runaway and homeless youth shelter, and then as executive director of the Domestic Abuse Shelter in the Florida Keys. In 2002, she earned her PhD from the SUNY-Albany School of Social Welfare.

"Throughout her career, Dr. Postmus has demonstrated a commitment to service and inclusiveness, a collaborative management style, and strength in decision-making," Jarrell said. "I am confident that we have found the right person to lead our School of Social Work and guide our students, faculty, and staff through these challenging times."



JUDY POSTMUS WILL JOIN THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK ON JULY 1.

COVID-19

MAY 2020

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE STEPS UP ON TESTING AND TRIALS

The University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMSOM) is stepping forward to help expand the state of Maryland's capacity to test individuals for COVID-19. In April, Dean E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA, announced the launch of a large-scale testing initiative enabled by funding of \$2.5 million from the state.

The initiative has the strong support of the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) and its interim president, Bruce E. Jarrell, MD, FACS. At UMSOM, the initiative will be led by Claire Fraser, PhD, the Dean's Endowed Professor and director of the Institute for Genome Sciences (IGS), and Sanford Stass, MD, professor and chair of UMSOM's departments of Pathology and Medical and Research Technology.

This testing initiative will be progressively ramped up to eventually run as many as 20,000 tests per day within the next few months. This will allow for far wider access to testing in Maryland through coordination with the city of Baltimore and the state health department.

"The state is in dire need of increased coronavirus testing, and the School of Medicine already has the early infrastructure in place, in terms of our technology and scientific expertise, to help close the testing gap," said Reece, who also is UMB's executive vice president for medical affairs. "This funding will enable us to better track the spread of the virus and provide swifter diagnoses and treatments to those in need." *Read more about the testing initiative.*

Meanwhile, UMSOM researchers are testing the effectiveness of the investigational antiviral drug remdesivir in hospitalized adult patients with COVID-19. The randomized controlled clinical trial is evaluating the safety and effectiveness of the drug and is part of a national study funded by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

The research is being conducted through UMSOM's Center for Vaccine Development and Global Health (CVD). As part of the study, remdesivir is being administered to patients who test positive for COVID-19 and are hospitalized at the University of Maryland Medical Center (UMMC) with pneumonia.

"There are no specific therapeutics approved by the Food and Drug Administration [FDA] with proven effectiveness to treat patients with COVID-19 infection," said principal investigator

Karen Kotloff, MD, professor of pediatrics and associate director for clinical research at CVD. "This trial brings opportunities for our patients at UMMC to receive the drug under carefully controlled conditions and provide the critical data needed for licensure of remdesivir as a COVID-19 treatment by the FDA."

Read more about the remdesivir trial.

On another front, UMSOM researchers have begun testing the effectiveness of hydroxychloroquine as a therapy to prevent infection and symptoms in people who have been exposed to COVID-19-positive individuals. The trial is significant because it focuses on preventing COVID-19 and does not involve individuals who are ill with infection but rather healthy individuals who have been exposed.

The research is part of a national study being conducted across the COVID-19 Therapeutics Accelerator initiative to speed up the response to the COVID-19 pandemic by funding the identification, assessment, development, and scale-up of treatments.

Principal investigators for the COVID-19 Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) trial — which is being conducted remotely among volunteers throughout the Baltimore-Washington area — are Kathleen Neuzil, MD, MPH, the Myron M. Levine, MD, DTPH, Professor in Vaccinology, professor of medicine and pediatrics, and director of CVD; and Miriam Laufer, MD, MPH, professor of pediatrics and associate director of CVD's Malaria Research Program.

Neuzil and Laufer are infectious disease specialists, with extensive experience in vaccine and infectious disease research. Laufer is a hydroxychloroquine expert, having spent years researching the therapy's effectiveness in children, pregnant women, and people living with HIV, as well as the epidemiology of drug-resistant malaria.

"We know that many COVID-19-positive individuals have mild or no symptoms but are still very contagious. If we can prevent infection or symptoms in individuals who have been exposed to them, we can significantly alter the course of this pandemic," Neuzil said. *Read more about the PEP trial.*

— Joanne Morrison



KAREN KOTLOFF IS THE PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR OF THE REMDESIVIR CLINICAL TRIAL.

USEFUL LINKS AND NUMBERS

Human Resources
410-706-2606

**UMaryland
Immediate Care**
667-214-1899

**Centers for Disease
Control and
Prevention (CDC)**

**Maryland
Department of
Health**

**National Alliance
on Mental Illness**

**Social Distancing
Guidelines**

CDC COVID-19 Facts

**Stop the Spread
of Germs**

The **EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**, in conjunction with the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB), continues to monitor the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis while following Centers for Disease Control and Prevention protocol and guidelines. We are committed to supporting the behavioral health needs of the UMB community and remain open and accessible. We can be reached on our main line at 667-214-1555. Staff members are available for phone and telehealth options. Email Amy Johnson (amjohnso@som.umaryland.edu) directly for appointments, questions, or additional concerns.



**KEEP
CALM
AND
WASH
YOUR
HANDS**

STRESS MANAGEMENT AND ACTIVE SELF- CARE ARE VITAL

DURING THIS TIME
OF UNCERTAINTY, SO
FOLLOW THESE TIPS TO
HELP YOU COPE WITH
THIS CRISIS:

TAKE CARE OF YOUR BODY

Eat healthy and
balanced meals,
exercise regularly,
and get sleep.

CONNECT WITH OTHERS

Utilize and maintain
relationships and
support systems.

TAKE BREAKS

Make time to
unwind; practice
deep breathing
and stretch.

STAY INFORMED

Missing or inaccurate
information can
contribute to heightened
anxiety or nervousness;
watch, listen, or read
updates from trusted
officials.

SEEK HELP

Reach out and use
available resources
if distress is
negatively impacting
your daily life.

Employee Assistance Program

419 W. Redwood St., Suite 560
Baltimore, MD 21201

667-214-1555
www.umb-eap.org

PHILANTHROPY

MAY 2020

PROGRAM DELIVERS GRATITUDE AND FOOD TO FRONT-LINE WORKERS

On a warm and sunny Friday afternoon, the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) campus was quieter than usual. Due to restrictions put in place by the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, students were learning from home and the majority of faculty and staff were teleworking. The campus was a ghost town with the exception of 200-plus essential employees who remained on-site.

“These essential employees are the backbone of the University,” said Denise Meyer, associate director of Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) at UMB. “They’re the main support for critical missions and functions keeping UMB operational during this time.”

These dedicated employees include Police and Public Safety, Vet Services, Parking and Transportation, Housekeeping Services, Facilities and Operations, Payroll, Procurement, and more. Many of them are working in minimum-wage jobs and extreme conditions. With the closures of local restaurants and food venues, there is nowhere for these vital workers to eat during work hours.

As a thank you for their hard work during this time of crisis, UMB launched the Food for Our Front Lines program, with the mission to provide free lunches for UMB employees who must remain on campus to perform essential operations and keep the University’s assets safe for the duration of the pandemic.

The first order of lunches was delivered to UMB’s Health Sciences Research Facility III on April 3. Essential employees from multiple departments kept a 6-foot distance from one another as they gathered to pick up their free meals.

“This really touches our soul because at one point in time we didn’t think anybody cared,” said Ida Powell, a housekeeper with EHS. “[Nurses and doctors] are doing really great work keeping people healthy, but we’re also here making sure that everything is clean and safe for those nurses and doctors to do their jobs. It feels really awesome to be appreciated in this way.”



A UMB EMPLOYEE CHECKS OUT THE BOX LUNCHES OFFERED THROUGH THE UNIVERSITY’S FOOD FOR OUR FRONT LINES PROGRAM.

All of the lunches are catered by Baltimore businesses. Thanks to partnerships fostered by UMB’s Office of Community Engagement, UMB identified six restaurants to order from: Culinary Architecture, Neopol Savory Smokery, Primo Chicken, Ruben’s Mexican, Taco Town, and Zella’s Pizzeria.

The meals are providing much-needed support to these locally owned businesses as they try to remain open and operational during the pandemic. These merchants not only provide vital services to West Baltimore residents and the greater UMB community, but they also provide employment for many.

To donate to the Food for Our Front Lines program, go to umaryland.edu/giving/frontline

Continued from previous page

“All food businesses are trying to figure out how to stay busy and generate income,” said Dorian Brown, co-owner of Neopol Savory Smokery. “The combination of UMB coming through with these sizable orders and a really loyal customer base has really helped keep the staff working and making delicious food.”

Each box lunch costs about \$12.50 and includes a sandwich or salad, chips, and a cookie or dessert bar. To keep this program going through the pandemic, UMB put out a call for donations on April 1 to help pay the businesses for their services. Among the early donations was a generous pledge of \$10,000 from new UMB Foundation board member Pete Buzy and his wife Eileen.

“We plan to give out lunches for as long as we have funding to do it, so the donations really count,” said Meyer, who helped to organize the Food for Our Front Lines program. “The more donations we get, the more often we can provide lunches throughout this pandemic.”

— Jena Frick

Watch a [video](#) and see [more photos](#).



DORIAN BROWN OF NEOPOL SAVORY SMOKERY PACKS BOX LUNCHES TO BE DELIVERED TO UMB.

UMB cares: Virtual Thank You Cards Video



Members of the community at-large answered the call for notes of appreciation to the health care workers on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We've compiled the cards into a video. Watch the video [here](#).

The campaign continues.
Click [here](#) to learn how to participate.

COLLABORATION

MAY 2020

SCHOOL OF NURSING CAMPAIGN SEWS MASKS, SOWS HOPE

When student Maria Segovia received an email from the University of Maryland School of Nursing (UMSON), inviting students, alumni, faculty, and staff to sew cloth masks to be donated to University of Maryland Medical Center (UMMC) to assist employees on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic, she knew she wanted to get involved.

“I wanted to do it, and I wanted to make as many as I could,” said Segovia, who is scheduled to earn her BSN degree in May. “Seeing how the situation is with COVID-19, I knew it was going to be very hard for these hospitals to get the supplies they need. I thought, ‘Let’s just try to do this.’”

One slight glitch: She didn’t know how to sew. But a couple of YouTube tutorials later, and with help from her family, Segovia had created 60 cloth masks to be used by hospital workers and support staff at UMMC.

In the campaign’s first few weeks, UMSON collected more than 3,000 cloth face masks from across the country. Packages of homemade masks show up daily at the home of Susan G. Dorsey, PhD, RN, FAAN, professor and chair of UMSON’s Department of Pain and Translational Symptom Science. Dorsey launched the campaign along with volunteer Deb Greenspan, a retired seamstress for the Baltimore Ravens.

These cloth face masks, which are being provided to patients, visitors, and staff working in non-direct patient care, allow the hospital to preserve medical-grade masks for those providing direct patient care.

UMSON Dean Jane M. Kirschling, PhD, RN, FAAN, said the response from the school’s 19,000 alumni, plus faculty, staff, and students, was overwhelming. The original email was passed on to friends, family, neighborhood associations, church groups, quilting clubs, and sewing circles.

“This is an opportunity for us to give back to the clinicians who every day are providing care in the medical center,” Kirschling said. “While they’re trying to juggle the dynamics of COVID-19, we wanted to do something that we could do easily from our

homes, and the ability to sew cloth masks and make those available to the individuals who are working inside the medical center has meant a great deal to us.”

The masks have been fashioned from a huge variety of brightly colored cloth patterns, from holiday motifs to professional sports teams, polka dots, stripes, or whatever volunteers had on hand or were able to purchase online.

“It’s been an uplifting campaign and sort of a vote of confidence for those who are working so hard as we deal with the pandemic,” Kirschling said. “In this country, everybody’s trying to figure out how do we navigate this, but also how do we help in terms of being able to do something tangible? And this is one way that people can help in a very, very meaningful way.”

Dorsey and Greenspan bring batches of the masks to Lisa Rowen, DNSc, RN, CENP, FAAN, chief nurse executive for UMMS, senior vice president of patient care services and chief nursing officer for UMMC, and an adjunct professor at UMSON, who distributes them inside the hospital.

“Today, we are here thanking our amazing community partners,” Rowen said before entering the hospital to deliver 600 masks. “They are our external family who are supporting our internal UMMC family by making these amazing, beautiful, wonderful cloth masks for

us. The masks are very much needed because we are keeping our medical-grade masks for our staff. And this way, all of us who are not taking care of patients directly are able to have a barrier and protection and it keeps our environment safer.”

Dorsey and Greenspan thought up the idea for the mask donation drive during a virtual happy hour, said Dorsey, who then contacted Kirschling and Rowen. Since then, “it’s just been an overwhelming community response,” Dorsey said.

— Mary Therese Phelan



ONE BAG OF HOMEMADE MASKS INCLUDED A THANK YOU NOTE FOR THE HOSPITAL STAFF.

Watch a [video](#) and see [more photos](#).



UMB cares



FOOD FOR OUR FRONT LINES

UMB Ordering Food from Local Businesses to Provide Free Lunch to Essential Employees Working on Campus During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Your generous support can help more than 200 University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) employees working on the front lines of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and help support local businesses hit hard by this crisis in West Baltimore.

At UMB, everyday heroes are risking their lives, and the lives of loved ones, to keep our campus safe and operational. Many are working in minimum-wage jobs and in extreme conditions. Now, due to the closure of local restaurants and food venues, there is nowhere for these vital workers to eat during work hours.

Because of this unprecedented hardship, we are collecting donations to purchase an essential meal for essential UMB front-line workers. A donation of \$12.50 will provide a meal for one of the 200-plus employees working daily at our University.

This much-needed support will directly support local businesses in the West Baltimore community as they struggle to remain operational and survive this pandemic. This community simply cannot afford for these businesses to close their doors. These merchants not only provide vital services to West Baltimore residents and the greater UMB community, but they also provide employment for many.

Join the Food for Our Front Lines effort! Invest in the heroes of UMB while supporting our valued neighbors.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO MAKE A GIFT,
visit www.umb.edu/giving/frontline.**



LIGHTS OF HOPE

MAY 2020

UMB AND UMMC BUILDINGS GLOW IN HONOR OF ESSENTIAL EMPLOYEES

As the sun set on downtown Baltimore on April 10, buildings on the campus of the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) and the University of Maryland Medical Center (UMMC) came alive with color to honor the dedicated health care workers, first responders, and other essential employees who are risking their lives every day in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

UMB buildings are awash in red light, while the UMMC Downtown and Midtown campuses are bathed in blue. The initiative, called “Lights of Hope for Our Front-Line Heroes,” was inspired by a nationwide call to recognize the tireless efforts of all those working on the front lines, from health care workers, to first responders, to grocery store clerks.

At dusk, crimson lights can be seen glowing from the Health Sciences and Human Services Library on Lombard and Greene streets; Health Sciences Research Facility (HSRF) I and HSRF II on Baltimore and Penn streets; HSRF III and Pharmacy Hall on Pine Street; and from the University’s most iconic building, Davidge Hall, on Lombard Street.

Michael Ahlfeldt, the supervisor of UMB’s electrical shop, and a skeleton crew of three electricians spent a week installing 300 red LED bulbs around UMB’s campus. “We wanted to

go red in support of the doctors, the nurses, lab techs, and our scientists on campus,” he said. “We want to show some kind of appreciation to let them know that we’re thinking of them while they’re working long hours.”

The long hours the electricians usually put in to illuminate UMB were considerably condensed for this project. In normal times, it takes a crew of eight electricians two to three weeks to light up campus buildings in color. The most recent time was when the Ravens were a top seed in the NFL playoffs in January and Davidge Hall glowed with purple pride.

The “Lights of Hope” project was completed in just one week in an effort to keep spirits raised as essential workers put in long hours to help sustain a healthy community.

“We normally do this to support the Orioles or the Ravens in their championship battles,” said Melissa A. Morland, MS, RBP, CBSP, acting director of facilities operations and maintenance, “but right now our home team is our front-line health care workers fighting to save lives during the COVID-19 pandemic.”

— Laura Lee

See *more photos*.



THE HEALTH SCIENCES AND HUMAN SERVICES LIBRARY GLOWS IN RED AND THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND MEDICAL CENTER LIGHTS UP IN BLUE TO SHOW APPRECIATION FOR ESSENTIAL WORKERS.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

MAY 2020

SPECIAL DELIVERY: PAL PROGRAM FAMILIES RECEIVE CARE PACKAGES

Dozens of families in West Baltimore involved in the University of Maryland, Baltimore's (UMB) Police Athletic/Activities League (PAL) Program received a special care package in mid-April. Borndavid McCraw, PAL Program coordinator at the UMB Community Engagement Center (CEC), spent the afternoon packing boxes and delivering them to the doorsteps of 30 families.

With many businesses in the area shut down because of the COVID-19 pandemic, these care packages serve as an essential resource to West Baltimore neighbors during an uncertain time.

McCraw loaded the packages into a PAL Program van and personally delivered them to each of the families. With every delivery, a family member came to the door and McCraw gave them a warm wave and a happy "hello" from across the street.

"We're keeping a 6-foot distance when we deliver the packages, so we're just doing a 'ding-dong and drop,'" McCraw said. Before heading out with the packages, he made sure to call each family to let them know he would be delivering them between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. "After I ring their doorbell, I step away from the door and watch to make sure someone receives it."

Social distancing rules put in place because of COVID-19 recommend individuals remain in their homes and stay 6 feet away from others if they need to go out. While these rules are in place, the UMB PAL Program is still hosting afternoon programming to keep the children engaged. Rather than meeting in person, they are meeting virtually using Zoom videoconference software.

"It's definitely helpful for me to see their faces," McCraw said. "There are simple routines that we have in the PAL Program that we don't want to lose a grip on while we're in isolation. This way we can maintain some normalcy by checking in, helping with schoolwork, and doing fun activities."

McCraw says that continuing to meet regularly with the PAL children will help to prevent learning loss and give them a sense of community while they are stuck at home away from their friends.

"I've noticed throughout my check-ins that some of them are starting to feel the monotony of the day and their spirits are a little low," McCraw said. "Delivering these care packages makes me feel good to be able to give them something that I know will brighten their day."

Outside of the PAL Program, the CEC has been working to distribute essential supplies such as diapers, formula, nonperishable food, and cleaning supplies to other community members in West Baltimore.

"Even though the center is closed, our arms are still open," McCraw said.

— Jena Frick

Watch a video and see more photos.



BORNDAVID MCCRAW FILLS CARE PACKAGES WITH DONATED SUPPLIES TO BE GIVEN TO THE FAMILIES OF CHILDREN INVOLVED IN THE UMB POLICE ATHLETIC/ACTIVITIES LEAGUE PROGRAM.

"Things aren't easy to get right now and it's also dangerous to be out and about," McCraw said. "By making these deliveries, we're relieving that anxiety of going out and shopping. It helps to make sure that each family has what they need. It also reminds them that we are here to be a support to them and we're really an extension of their family."

All of the packages were donated to the CEC by John Walter, the owner of Baltimore moving company Walter Relocations, Inc. Each one included paper towels, toilet paper, soap, pencils, journals, water, small toys, and snacks.

HELPING HANDS

MAY 2020

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY COMMUNITY SHARES STORIES OF AID, COMFORT

In a series of “Helping Hands” blog posts, School of Pharmacy students, staff, faculty, and alumni have been sharing stories about how they’ve stepped up to assist family, friends, colleagues, and communities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Second-year PharmD student Megidelawit Yirefu wrote about how students from UMB and Johns Hopkins University have come together to support health care workers in Baltimore.

“My team and I were able to recruit 300 graduate health students from UMB and Hopkins to volunteer,” Yirefu wrote. “While official institutional child care services were being implemented, our group was able to fill in the child care gap for front-line health care workers across the city.”

The group also partnered with community leaders on a drive to collect thousands of personal protective equipment items for the Baltimore City Health Department.

Two staff members, Becky Ceraul and Erin Merino, extended their helping hands with the assistance of family members.

Inspired by the School of Nursing’s campaign, Ceraul, assistant dean for communications and marketing, teamed up with her 13-year-old daughter Maddie to make cloth face masks.

“Maddie has a sewing machine and some skill,” Ceraul wrote. “I have no sewing skills but knew this was a much-needed distraction for both of us and a way we can help while stuck at home.”

With FaceTime tutoring from her mother, a master seamstress who lives in West Virginia, Ceraul and her daughter soon produced 10 masks. “We gave them to two health care workers we know – one who works in an urgent care center and the other who works in the emergency room at UMMC – for their personal use and/or to share with their colleagues,” Ceraul wrote.

Merino, senior marketing specialist, and her husband own several 3D printers because they run a 3D printing Etsy shop. Using a design from Open Works, a makerspace in the city, the couple produced face shields for health care workers.

“We decided to make them orange and purple for Baltimore,” wrote Merino, alluding to the colors of the Orioles and Ravens, respectively. When they dropped off their first batch of face shields to Open Works, Merino said, “We were happy to see that their mailbox was overflowing with donations.”

Mark Worster, a student in the MS in Medical Cannabis Science and Therapeutics program, launched a free text service called “Daily Love” that sends positive, inspirational messages to subscribers every morning. Anyone could join by texting “afalove” to 484848.



STUDENTS LOAD SUPPLIES INTO A CAR IN PREPARATION FOR DELIVERY TO LOCAL HEALTH CARE WORKERS.

“For the last 10 years, I’ve had a daily ritual of meditating, reading inspirational books, and journaling,” Worster wrote. “I decided that it was the perfect time to share the readings and insights with everyone in my life. . . . The messages vary but the intent is the same — bringing us together in a positive way.”

Alumnus Ron Lay, BSP ’78, wrote about volunteering two days a week at the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank in Harrisburg, Pa., which was seeing the demand for food triple during the pandemic.

“With businesses closing and people staying home, the most needy are hit the hardest,” Lay wrote. “Others who were previously self-sufficient now find themselves in need of assistance. . . . It is nice to know that I can participate in an activity that can directly help so many people in this time of need.”

— Lou Cortina

Read the “Helping Hands” posts.