

the PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

MARCH 2021



UMB CONTINUES TO THRIVE

The University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) has faced this most extraordinary past year with incredible resilience. Almost one year ago, March 12, UMB asked those who could telework to do so, moved from in-person didactic classes to online, drastically limited research, and made adjustments to field and clinical placements. While we still face many challenges because of the COVID-19 pandemic, UMB as an institution is thriving.

For the first time, enrollment at UMB has surpassed 7,000 students for a spring term, increasing 5.5 percent from spring 2020. We have seen increases in enrollment at the School of Nursing in undergraduate and professional practice nursing; in the School of Pharmacy's professional master's programs, especially its MS in Medical Cannabis Science and Therapeutics; in the Graduate School's research doctorate programs; and in the Francis King Carey School of Law's Day Law program.

We've also seen exciting rankings, collaborations, and new programs. The University of Maryland — UMB and the University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP) combined — achieved its highest ranking ever in the National Science Foundation's Higher Education Research and Development survey for Fiscal Year 2019, placing 14th overall nationally and eighth among public institutions in research and development spending. For the first time, UMB and UMCP were linked together as one research enterprise in the survey, with combined research expenditures of \$1.1 billion.

In *U.S. News & World Report's* 2021 Best Online Programs rankings, the School of Nursing ranked among the Best Online Master's in Nursing Programs for Veterans nationwide at No. 18. The school's Master of Science in Nursing Health Services Leadership and Management specialty ranked No. 7 in the nation in the Nursing Administration Programs category, and its postbaccalaureate Teaching in Nursing and Health Professions Certificate ranked No. 8 in the nation in the Nursing Education Programs category. The school also has completed formal partnerships with every community college in Maryland that offers an Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) program when it launched agreements of dual admission with Hagerstown Community College and Allegany College of Maryland. These

agreements enable a smooth transition from ADN programs to UMSON's Bachelor of Science in Nursing program.

The School of Pharmacy's MS in Medical Cannabis Science and Therapeutics, the first graduate program in the country dedicated to the study of medical cannabis, continues to grow. The two-year program, which began in 2019, blends online learning with face-to-face experiences and is designed for any individual who has completed their undergraduate degree and is interested in pursuing a career in the medical cannabis industry. Applications have far outpaced the number of available spaces in each of the first three years of this innovative program.

“With COVID-19 affecting our lives so intensely, it is gratifying to see that our University continues to innovate, adjust, and thrive.”

The Graduate School is partnering with the Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Relations at Coventry University in the United Kingdom to offer a master's degree and certificate in Vulnerability and Violence Reduction that will launch in fall 2021. The innovative program includes UMB faculty from the Carey School of Law, School of Nursing, and Graduate School, many of whom are nationally recognized experts in public health, community engagement, conflict resolution, and global health. The international faculty will bring the best ideas from around the globe to address the problem of violence in multiple communities and, more importantly, the vulnerability that leads to violence. The degree builds on UMB's commitment to community-engaged and asset-based approaches to address the overlapping epidemics of poverty, racism, and violence.

The Carey School of Law's Day Law program consistently ranks in the top quartile of all law schools and was in the top 25 among public institutions for 2020. *U.S. News & World Report* ranked the school's Part-Time Law program fifth in the country, Clinical Training sixth, Health Care seventh, Environmental 10th, and Dispute Resolution 13th.

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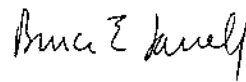
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The School of Dentistry launched a novel Clinical Dental Hygiene Leader (CDHL) program that, in two years, will award students a bachelor's and a master's degree. The dual-degree program was designed for college graduates who have a background in the sciences but want to delve specifically into the health care realm. The CDHL curriculum features a mix of online and clinical instruction and includes graduate-level courses focused on research, interpreting scientific data, scholarly writing, and ethical decision-making. It is oriented toward health care professionals who want to work more hands-on with patients, perhaps, or become a thought leader or project manager.

These are just some of the many exciting programs at UMB and accolades our schools have received. I'm also quite pleased that UMB was ranked No. 13 overall and No. 3 among universities in *Forbes* magazine's *America's Best Large Employers 2021 survey*. This is a testament to the dedicated employees at UMB who bring commitment and passion to what they do.

With COVID-19 affecting our lives so intensely, it is gratifying to see that our University continues to innovate, adjust, and thrive. Despite so much adversity, the folks who work, learn, and support UMB continue to bring their best efforts and rise to the challenges we face. I'm honored to lead an institution that is committed to fighting the pandemic by changing our activities, researching solutions, and adhering to the highest standards for health and safety for ourselves and others. I look forward to moving past this pandemic and continuing to see UMB thrive for years to come.

Sincerely,



Bruce E. Jarrell, MD, FACS
PRESIDENT



UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND BALTIMORE

Virtual
FACE to FACE
with **PRESIDENT BRUCE JARRELL**

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

MARCH 11, 2 P.M.
An Interfaith Dialogue: Guiding Our Congregations Through COVID-19
GUESTS: Rabbi Daniel Burg, Rev. Dr. Phyllis Felton, and Yassine Daoud, MD

MARCH 25, 2 P.M.
Sleep Matters at UMB
GUEST: Emerson Wickwire, PhD, MS

Register to watch and learn more at umaryland.edu/president/face-to-face.

LAURELS

MARCH 2021

UNIVERSITYWIDE



COURTNEY J. JONES
CARNEY

Courtney J. Jones Carney, MBA, executive director of intercultural leadership and engagement and director, Intercultural Center, Division

of Student Affairs, and Intercultural Leadership Postbaccalaureate Certificate Program, Graduate School, was a panelist for the Community-Campus Partnerships for Health's discussion "Structural Racism, Vaccine Hesitancy, and Informed Consent: Has Trustworthiness Been Earned?" on Jan. 15.

Pam Heckler, chief operating officer and treasurer, UMB Foundation, was promoted to associate vice president, finance and operations, Office of Philanthropy.



BRIAN ZELIP

Brian Zelip, MS, MLS, emerging technologies librarian, Health Sciences and Human Services Library, was a panelist on the topic of makerspaces in

health sciences libraries at the virtual annual meeting of the Medical Library Association, Philadelphia Chapter.

SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY



ABDULRAHMAN
BALHADDAD



MARY ANNE MELO



HOWARD STRASSLER



ELAINE MIGINSKY

Abdulrahman Balhaddad, BDS, MS, PhD candidate, Dental Biomedical Sciences Program; **Michael Raderman, DDS**, member,

Dean's Faculty; **Mary Anne Melo, DDS, PhD**, associate professor and director, Division of Operative Dentistry, Department of Advanced Oral Sciences and Therapeutics; **Howard Strassler, DMD**, professor, Division of Operative Dentistry; **Elaine Miginsky, DDS**, clinical instructor, Division of Operative Dentistry; and **Ward Massey, DDS, PhD**, clinical associate professor and chair, Department of General Dentistry, were among the co-authors of "Hands-on Training Based on Quantifying Radiant Exposure Improves How Dental

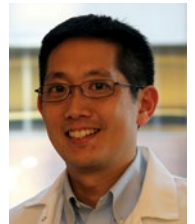


WARD MASSEY

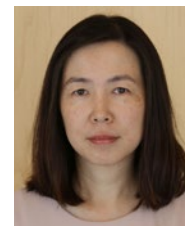
Students Cure Composites: Skill Retention at 2-Year Follow-Up," which was published in the *European Journal of Dental Education*.



OKSANA MISHLER



HARLAN SHIAU



SE-LIM OH

Christine Barnes, RDH, clinical instructor; **Oksana Mishler, RDH, MS, DHSc**, clinical assistant professor; **Harlan Shiau, DDS,**

DMedSc; and **Se-Lim Oh, DMD, MS**, clinical associate professor, all from the Division of Periodontics, Department of Advanced Oral Sciences and Therapeutics, co-authored "Remote Simulation-Based Learning for Periodontal Instrumentation in Preclinical Education," which was published in the *Journal of Dental Education*.



CARL F. DRISCOLL

Carl F. Driscoll, DMD, professor, Department of Advanced Oral Sciences and Therapeutics, is the co-editor of the book "Treating the Complete

Denture Patient," which is scheduled to be published in March.

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

LAURELS

MARCH 2021

GRADUATE SCHOOL



SHANI FLEMING



ERIN HAGAR



VIOLET KULO



JAMES F. CAWLEY



HYUN-JIN JUN



GERALD KAYINGO

Dave Bunnell, MSHS, PA-C, fellow; **Shani Fleming, MSHS, MPH, MSHS, MPH, PA-C**, associate professor; **Karen Gordes, PhD, PT, DSc**, associate professor and chief learning director; **Erin Hagar, MA, MFA**, senior instructional designer; and **Violet Kulo, EdD, MS, MA**, associate professor, all from the Physician Assistant Leadership and Learning Academy (PALLA), are involved in one or multiple presentation proposals accepted for the Teaching Professor Conference in June or the American Academy of Physician Assistants' (AAPA)

Conference in May. **James F. Cawley, MPH, PA-C**, visiting professor and Scholar in Residence; **Hyun-Jin Jun, PhD, MSW**, assistant professor, and **Gerald Kayingo, PhD, MMSc, PA-S**, executive director, assistant dean, and professor, all of PALLA, also are involved in presentation proposals accepted for the AAPA Conference.



DONALD DONAHUE

Donald Donahue, DHEd, MBA, MSJ, adjunct faculty member, was a panelist on the World Humanitarian Forum's Webinar Series "The

Global Reset Dialogue: Redefining Humanitarianism" on Jan. 29.

CAREY SCHOOL OF LAW



DEBORAH EISENBERG

Deborah Eisenberg, JD, professor and associate dean, Academic Affairs, wrote the chapter "Frank Sander: Father of Court-Based Dispute

Resolution" for the book "Discussions in Dispute Resolution: The Foundational Articles."

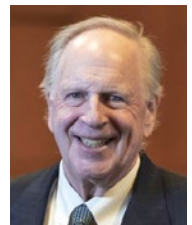
Leigh Goodmark, JD, professor and co-director, Clinical Law Program, was quoted in "Maryland Man Executed, Last of Unprecedented String of Federal Executions as Trump Leaves Office," which was published in *The Baltimore Sun* on Jan. 16.



MARK GRABER

Mark Graber, JD, professor, wrote the essay "Section 3 to the Rescue," which was published in *The Constitutionalist* on Jan. 11.

Michael Greenberger, JD, professor and director, Center for Health and Homeland Security, was a guest on WYPR's "On the Record" inauguration day show Jan. 20.



MICHAEL GREENBERGER



KATHLEEN HOKE

Kathleen Hoke, JD, professor and director, Network for Public Health Law, Eastern Region, co-authored "Monitoring and Exposing Tobacco Industry Interference in U.S. Public Policy," which was published in the *Tobacco Control Journal*.



SEEMA KAKADE

Seema Kakade, JD, associate professor and director, Environmental Law Clinic, was quoted in "DOJ Settlement Including SEP Signals Biden Could Reverse Trump Ban," which was published in *Inside EPA* on Feb. 2. Her article in the *Harvard*

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Environmental Law Review on the same topic also was cited.



ROBERT PERCIVAL

Robert Percival, JD, professor and director, Environmental Law Program, was quoted in “What Merrick Garland as Attorney General Means for the

Environment,” which was published in *The Washington Post* on Jan. 11.



MANEKA SINHA

Maneka Sinha, JD, assistant professor and director, Criminal Defense Clinic, wrote “Junk Science at Sentencing,” which was published in the *George Washington Law Review*.

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

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

Sally Adebamowo, MBBS, MSc, ScD, assistant professor, and **Clement Adebamowo, BM, ChB, ScD, FWACS, FACS**, professor, both from the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, co-authored “Indigene Study as Part of the H3Africa Consortium. Qualitative Study of Comprehension of Heritability in Genomics Studies Among the Yoruba in Nigeria,” which was published in *BMC Medical Ethics* on Dec. 9.



JAMES CAMPBELL

James Campbell, MD, MS, professor, Department of Pediatrics; **Myron Levine, MD, DTPH**, Simon and Bessie Grollman Distinguished

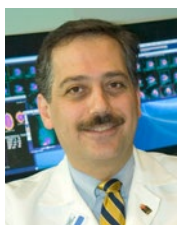
Professor; and **Kirsten Lyke, MD**, professor, Department of Medicine, were named to the COVID-19 Vaccination Technical Advisory Group for the state of Maryland.



WILBUR CHEN

Wilbur Chen, MD, MS, professor, Department of Medicine, was appointed to a four-year term as a voting member of the Centers for Disease Control

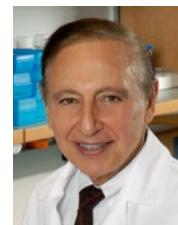
and Prevention’s Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices.



VASKEN DILSIZIAN

Vasken Dilsizian, MD, professor, Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, wrote “Interpretation and Clinical Management

of Patients with ‘Fixed’ Myocardial Perfusion Defects: A Call for Quantifying Endocardial-to-Epicardial Distribution of Blood Flow,” which will be published in the *Journal of Nuclear Cardiology* in March.



ROBERT GALLO

Robert Gallo, MD, Homer and Martha Gudelsky Distinguished Professor in Medicine and director and co-founder, Institute of Human Virology,

presented “From HIV to SARS-CoV-2: A Reflection on the Science of These and Earlier Pandemics” to the Swedish Science Forum’s COVID-19 webinar Jan. 26.



DHEERAJ GANDHI

Dheeraj Gandhi, MBBS, professor, Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, was among the co-authors of “Outcomes after Thrombectomy

for Minor Stroke: A Meta-Analysis,” which was published in *World Neurosurgery* in December.



RONNA HERTZANO

Ronna Hertzano, MD, PhD, associate professor, Department of Otorhinolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, was awarded \$2.9 million from the National

Institute of Deafness and other Communication Disorders as a renewal for her R01 grant “Cell Type-Specific Transcriptional Cascades in Inner Ear Development.”

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KAREN KOTLOFF

Karen Kotloff, MD, professor, Department of Pediatrics, was awarded \$2,095,587 from Moderna for “Year 2 Trial Leadership Group for the Infectious Diseases

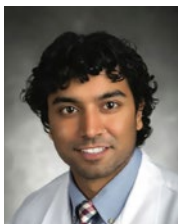
Clinical Research Consortium (IDCRC) CoVPN Activities and Pediatric and Maternal COVID-19 Working Group” and was awarded \$617,961 for “VTEU Cooperative Agreement-Base Supplement.”



DEAN MANN

Dean Mann, MD, professor, Department of Pathology, was awarded a five-year, \$8,061,386 contract from the National Institutes of Health’s National

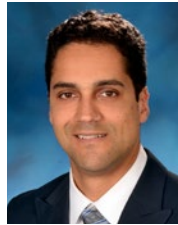
Cancer Institute for “Collection and Evaluation of Human Tissues and Cells from Donors with an Epidemiologic Profile.”



ZAKER RANA

Zaker Rana, MD, assistant professor, Department of Radiation Oncology, was among the co-authors of “Phase 1 Trial of Dose-Escalated

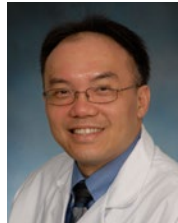
Stereotactic Radiosurgery (SRS) Boost for Unfavorable Locally Advanced Oropharyngeal Cancer,” which was published in *Radiation Oncology* in December.



GERARD SLOBOGEAN

Gerard Slobogean, MD, MPH, associate professor, Department of Orthopaedics, won the prestigious Bovill Award for his paper “Vitamin D3

Supplementation Does Not Improve Fracture Healing: A Double-Blinded Randomized Controlled Trial,” which he will present at the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons’ annual meeting in September.



QUINCY TRAN

Quincy Tran, MD, and **Daniel Haase, MD**, both assistant professors, Department of Emergency Medicine, were among the co-authors of “How the Critical

Care Resuscitation Unit Contributes to Critically Ill Transfer: A 5-Year Experience” and “Neurologic Status and Intubation in a Critical Care Resuscitation Unit for Mechanical Thrombectomy,” both published in *Critical Care Medicine* in January.



PIOTR WALCZAK

Piotr Walczak, MD, PhD, professor, and **Yajie Liang, MB, PhD**, assistant professor, both from the Department of Diagnostic Radiology and

Nuclear Medicine, co-authored “Long Term Intravital Single Cell Tracking under Multiphoton Microscopy,” which was published in the *Journal of Neuroscience Methods* in December.



MIKE WINTERS

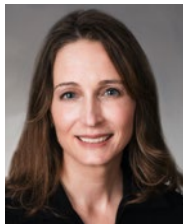
Mike Winters, MD, professor, Department of Emergency Medicine, is among the hosts of the twice-monthly podcast “Critical Care Perspectives in Emergency Medicine.”

SCHOOL OF NURSING

UMSON received the following rankings in *U.S. News & World Report’s* 2021 Best Online Programs survey: No. 7, Master of Science in Nursing, Health Services Leadership and Management specialty, Nursing Administration Programs category; No. 8, Postbaccalaureate Teaching in Nursing and Health Professions Certificate, Nursing Education Programs category; and No. 18, Online Master’s in Nursing Programs for Veterans.



BIMBOLA F. AKINTADE



KRISTEN RAWLETT



KATIE MCELROY

Three UMSON faculty members were appointed to state of Maryland or Baltimore County health care oversight organizations: **Bimbola F. Akintade, PhD**

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'11, MS '05, MBA, MHA, BSN '03, ACNP-BC, NEA-BC, FAANP, associate professor and associate dean for the MSN program, Maryland Health Care Commission; **Kristen Rawlett, PhD '14, FNP-BC, FAANP**, assistant professor, State Children's Environmental Health and Protection Advisory Council; and **Katie McElroy, PhD '16, MS '10, BSN '98, RN**, assistant professor, Baltimore County Board of Health.



RASHIDA CHARLES



JACQUELINE C. MITCHELL

Alumnus **Rashida Charles, MS '19, RN**, and **Jacqueline C. Mitchell, MS, CRNA**, director of clinical education, were co-authors of "A Literature Review Examining the Effectiveness of At-Home Physical Activity on Controlling the Blood Pressure of African American Men in Baltimore, Maryland," which was published in *Spectrum: A Journal on Black Men*.

Tonya Schneidereith, PhD, CRNP, PPCNP-BC, CPNP-AC, CNE, CHSE-A, ANEF, FAAN, associate professor, was a volume editor for "Annual Review of Nursing Research: Healthcare Simulation." The book examines the state of the science of simulation in academia and health care practice. Alumnus **Mary K. Fey, PhD '14**, co-authored the "Evidence-Based Debriefing" chapter.

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY



MATHANGI GOPALAKRISHAN

Mathangi Gopalakrishnan, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, received a 10-month, \$330,000

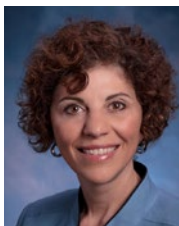
contract from West Therapeutic Development for "Proposal for Ketamine and Esketamine Formulations — MIDD Approach."



JOEY MATTINGLY



JULIA SLEJKO



ELEANOR PERFETTO

Joey Mattingly, PharmD, MBA, PhD, associate professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research (PHSR); **Julia Slejko, PhD**,

assistant professor, PHSR; and **Eleanor Perfetto, PhD**, professor, PHSR, received second place in the 2020 PhRMA Foundation Value Assessment Challenge Award.

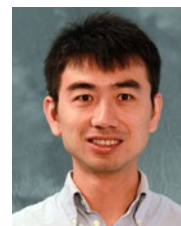
Michelle Medeiros, MS, MA, CCRP, director of research, PATIENTS Program, was named UMB Employee of the Month for

January for her work on patient-centered outcomes research, in particular as principal investigator for a \$250,000 Capacity Building Award contract from the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute to collaborate with the Southwest Partnership on such research.



MICHELLE MEDEIROS

Fengtian Xue, PhD, associate professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, received a one-year, \$424,875 grant from the National Institutes of Health for "Pseudomonas Aeruginosa Heme Sensing Inhibitors Targeting HasAp."



FENGTIAN XUE

Zafar Zafari, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research, received an 18-month,

\$100,000 grant from the Maryland Department of Transportation for "Air Traffic Noise Study in the Vicinity of Baltimore/ Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport."



ZAFAR ZAFARI

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SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK



SARAH DABABNAH



WENDY SHAIJA

Sarah Dababnah, PhD, associate professor, and **Wendy Shaia, PhD**, clinical associate professor and executive director, Social Work Community Outreach Service, were among the co-authors of “I Am So Fearful for Him: A Mixed-Methods Exploration of Stress Among Caregivers of Black Children with Autism,” which was published in the *International Journal of Developmental Disabilities*.



GEOFFREY GREIF



MICHAEL WOOLLEY

Geoffrey Greif, PhD, professor, and **Michael Woolley, PhD**, associate professor, co-authored the chapter “Adult Sibling Relationships in the United States: Mostly Close, Occasionally Contentious, and Caring for Aging Parents” for the book “Brothers and Sisters: Tradition and Change in the Longest Enduring Relationship.”



BRENDA JONES
HARDEN

Brenda Jones Harden, PhD, Alison Richman Professor for Children and Families, was selected to serve on the National Academies of Sciences,

Engineering, and Medicine’s committee “Exploring the Opportunity Gap for Young Children from Birth to Age Eight.”



AMANDA LEHNING



PAUL SACCO

Amanda Lehning, PhD, and **Paul Sacco, PhD**, both associate professors, and alumnus **Kyeongmo Kim, PhD, MSW**, co-authored “The Role of County Characteristics in Mental Health Service Use by Older African Americans,” which was published in *Psychiatric Services* as part of a special edition on racial-ethnic disparities in mental health care.



KYLA LIGGETT-CREEL

Kyla Liggett-Creel, PhD, LCSW-C, clinical assistant professor, was named co-lead of the Trauma-Informed Care Workgroup of the Baltimore Children’s Cabinet

in the Mayor’s Office of Children & Family Success.

Lauren Pryce McCarthy, PhD student, wrote “Attention to Gender and Race in Interventions for Custodial Grandparents: A Scoping Review,” which was published in the *Journal of Feminist Family Therapy*.



TERRY SHAW

Terry Shaw, PhD, associate professor, and alumnus **Joan Zlotnik, PhD**, co-authored “The Impact of Targeted Permanency and Post-Permanency

Services on Continued Family Stability: An Introduction,” which was published in the *Journal of Public Child Welfare*.



WENDY SHERMAN

Alumnus **Wendy Sherman, MSW**, was nominated by President Joe Biden to become deputy secretary of state, the second-highest post in the U.S. State

Department. She previously served as undersecretary of state for political affairs in the Obama administration from September 2011 to October 2015.

PRESIDENT'S PANEL *on* POLITICS AND POLICY

MARCH 2021

KENDI DELIVERS MESSAGE ON HOW TO BE ANTI-RACIST

Being an anti-racist involves much more than simply declaring, “I’m not a racist,” says author and historian Ibram X. Kendi, PhD, MA.

“First and foremost, to be an anti-racist, you must recognize that there are racial disparities and inequities in our society,” says Kendi, the Andrew W. Mellon Professor in the Humanities at Boston University and founding director of its Center for Antiracist Research. “And then you must ask, ‘What’s the cause of those disparities?’”

“To be anti-racist is to not think there’s something inferior about any racial group of people and to understand that the only explanation for racial disparity between groups is that there’s something wrong with our policies, practices, or the conditions that certain people are forced to live under,” he adds. “And then, to be anti-racist is to figure out which of those policies and practices are harmful and need to change.”

Kendi is one of the country’s leading anti-racist scholars. In fact, he’s literally written a book about the subject, “How to Be an Antiracist,” which is one of his three *New York Times* bestsellers. He shared his expertise on this topic and more with a University



“PEOPLE ARE CONSTANTLY THINKING THAT A PARTICULAR RACIAL GROUP IS THE PROBLEM, AND THEY DON’T RECOGNIZE THAT ACTUALLY IT’S POWER AND POLICY THAT ARE THE PROBLEMS,” SAYS IBRAM X. KENDI.

of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) audience Feb. 17 as the guest for UMB’s first President’s Panel on Politics and Policy of 2021.

UMB President Bruce E. Jarrell, MD, FACS, queried Kendi during the hourlong virtual event, noting that he was eager to learn about how UMB can examine its practices and policies to diminish inequities and create a more equitable environment at the University.

“My goal is for everyone at UMB to fulfill their potential, contribute to our community, feel a sense of belonging and accomplishment, and be themselves. I hope that today’s conversation will help us come up with ideas and actions to make that happen,” Jarrell said.

Kendi spoke on a series of topics including voter suppression, the Jan. 6 riot at the U.S. Capitol, slavery and white self-interest, reparations, and racial health and economic disparities. He used COVID-19 and its effects in the United States to expand on his anti-racist definition, noting that the pandemic has hit minorities the hardest from health and economic perspectives.

“To be racist is to either deny the existence of inequities and disparities in our society, or to look at those disparities and say, ‘Well, Black people are dying at higher rates from COVID-19 because there’s something wrong with them — they’re not socially distancing, they have more pre-existing conditions, they’re lazy, they don’t eat right, they don’t exercise,’” he said.

“And so it’s this constant blaming of people, in considering people to be inferior behaviorally, culturally, or even biologically, as the cause of disparities in our society.”

It’s not enough to blame pre-existing conditions for the higher rates of COVID-19 mortality, Kendi said. It’s what causes the disparities that matters.

“When you study this issue, you’ll find that the greatest factors are access to health insurance and living in so-called trauma deserts where there’s no access to high-quality, life-saving trauma care,” he said. “It’s also being less able to work from home and living in neighborhoods with higher levels of air and water pollution. But people are constantly thinking that a particular

Continued from previous page

racial group is the problem, and they don't recognize that actually it's power and policy that are the problems."

Shifting to politics, Kendi decried what he called an assault on the ability of all Americans to vote and said the U.S. Capitol riot in January wasn't too shocking if you are a student of history.

"You have some elected officials who say, 'I don't have enough votes to win, so I'm going to suppress the votes of my political opponents,'" he said. "And that becomes the cradle for voter suppression policies like voter ID laws, modern-day poll taxes that tell former felons they have to pay off all their fines before they can get reinstated on voter rolls, or the cutting of voting sites in Black and Brown communities.

"Watching the riot on TV, it was very familiar to me, because as a student of African American history, I know there have been so many attempted coups and successful coups on multiracial governments, specifically following the Civil War."

Kendi also said the riot merely confirmed FBI and law enforcement warnings that white supremacists are the greatest domestic terrorist threat of our time.


"They showed it on Jan. 6," he said. "During the attack, I called my mother, and the first thing she said to me was that if those rioters had been Black, they would have all been dead."

There remains a powerful segment of Americans who will continue to push back against anti-racist efforts, Kendi said, but he hopes they eventually will realize that their movement is "heading off a cliff for themselves, let alone for the nation."

"There is a commanding majority of Americans of all races, backgrounds, ages, ethnicities, and genders who recognize that racism is a big problem and who are committed to creating a more equitable and just country," he said, adding that he's hopeful the Biden administration will make good on its promise to root out systemic racism in the country.

"I just want results," Kendi said. "And the data will show it: whether there's a decline in the number of people killed by police; whether there's a decline in the racial wealth gap; whether there's an increase in housing and food security among Black and Brown people. Ultimately, we should be judging our elected officials, no matter their political party, by their results."

— Lou Cortina



ON THE FRONT LINES:
UMB CHAMPIONS OF EXCELLENCE

The On the Front Lines: UMB Champions of Excellence campaign recognizes employees who've done exemplary work amid extraordinary circumstances during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Read about the individuals and teams honored for maintaining their commitment to the University's mission during this unprecedented crisis.

➤ umaryland.edu/champions

MPOWERING THE STATE

MARCH 2021

VACCINE HESITANCY STUDY SHOWS THE POWER OF STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

In times like now when the COVID-19 pandemic has created so many issues without answers, having colleagues with the ideal expertise being just a Zoom meeting away can make a difference.

When faculty members from the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) and the University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP) wanted to assemble an interdisciplinary team of researchers to find out what influences the African American community when it comes to vaccine hesitancy, there was no trepidation in wondering if the colleagues would receive support.

“Many of us on both campuses who have interacted see us as belonging to one institution,” said Clement A. Adebamowo, BM, ChB, ScD, FWACS, FACS, professor of epidemiology and public health at the Institute of Human Virology at the University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMSOM) and associate director of the University of Maryland Marlene and Stewart Greenebaum Comprehensive Cancer Center’s Population Science Program.

“Yes, there may be administration things each person has to sign off on at their personal institutions, but it doesn’t look any different than two people in different departments working together at the same university,” he added.

Adebamowo sees that collaboration in laboratories, classrooms, and communication. He accepted an invitation to work with Xiaoli Nan, PhD, MA, a professor of communication science and co-director of Graduate Studies in the Department of Communication at UMCP, for their second project together. This one is to understand why African Americans, who suffer disproportionately from the adverse health and economic impacts of the pandemic, might accept or reject the COVID-19 vaccines. The goal is to craft messaging that will reduce vaccine hesitancy; they are developing an online questionnaire for survey participants.

“When you are basically at the same university but on different campuses, I think people are more open to collaborations,”

Nan said. “We’re more open to work with researchers from the same institution.”

That collaboration is called the University of Maryland Strategic Partnership: *MPowering the State* (*MPower*). Created in 2012, it was formalized as part of the University of Maryland Strategic Partnership Act of 2016. This paved the way for the two universities to combine their research offices, aligning not only their research initiatives, but also their infrastructure and leadership. In 2018, Laurie E. Locascio, PhD, MSc, was appointed to lead the joint research enterprise as vice president for research.



XIAOLI NAN, LEFT, AND CLEMENT ADEBAMOWO ARE COLLABORATING TO RESEARCH VACCINE HESITANCY AMONG AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITIES.

Nan, principal investigator, and Adebamowo found that all the skill sets required for this project are under one administrative roof.

Nan is a health communications expert, serving as director of the Center for Health and Risk Communication, which includes students and faculty collaborating from the College Park and Baltimore campuses. Adebamowo brings genomics and infectious disease knowledge to the project, which in September received \$98,432 in seed grant funding from *MPower*’s Joint Steering Council.

The team was rounded out with a professor from UMCP’s School of Public Health plus another UMSOM faculty member who had interacted with patients on the front lines during the pandemic.

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“All of those skills together really make our team incredibly strong,” Nan said. “Also, because our project is based on African American acceptance of the COVID-19 vaccine, our colleagues in Baltimore have done a great deal of research among African Americans. Their experience with this minority population is most important to this project.”

In 2018, Adebamowo and Nan earned approval for their research on framing human papillomavirus infection vaccination messaging for African American parents, leading to \$2.2 million in funding through the National Cancer Institute of the National Institutes of Health. The project runs through 2023.

That familiarity enabled them to join forces again to fight COVID-19. There is mutual respect and shared pride in a joint research operation.

“The value has been in the amount and depth of collaboration we’ve been able to establish, and just knowing the institutional processes intimately and, to some degree, the commonalities that they share,” Adebamowo said. “You’re not worried about going through a whole different type of institutional engagement with their own rules and personalities.”

Adebamowo is interested in finding out from the survey what is most affecting the optics of the vaccine. Is it information from the news media that might not be complete about the decades of research to develop messenger RNA vaccines? Or is it a historical fissure between the medical and African American communities? Or is it a matter of morality or politics?

“Now that there’s a vaccine, are some of those expressions going to continue and transmit forward to affect the optics of the vaccines?” Adebamowo said.

Most of the country is trying to get crib notes on vaccinology and medical research. Naturally, people have questions.

“A lot of the things medical researchers and epidemiologists do in the dark were brought out to light during COVID-19 because there was so much pressure,” he said.

Soon, those answers will come through the survey to help shape messaging to address the skepticism.

— Charles Schelle

UMB-UMCP RESEARCH ENTERPRISE MOVES UP IN RANKINGS

For the first time, the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) and the University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP) were linked together as one research enterprise in the National Science Foundation’s Higher Education Research and Development (HERD) survey. And the University of Maryland collaboration made its mark in Fiscal Year 2019, placing 14th overall nationally and eighth among public institutions in research and development spending at almost \$1.1 billion.

The HERD survey is recognized as the preeminent measure for higher education institutions engaged in sponsored research. In Fiscal Year 2018, reporting as separate institutions, UMCP and UMB ranked No. 47 and No. 55, respectively. With this new ranking, Maryland joins an elite group of six states with more than one university conducting research at or above \$1 billion per year.

“Our University of Maryland research enterprise provides the opportunity for us to engage in exciting new areas of research that combine the strengths of experts in Baltimore and College

Park to take on the world’s greatest challenges,” said Laurie E. Locascio, PhD, MSc, who was appointed to lead the joint enterprise as vice president for research in 2018. “This ranking reflects our status as a thriving and powerful research engine.”

Recent cross-institution research includes responding to COVID-19 and the threat of future pandemics. Teams are addressing the pandemic from multidisciplinary angles including medicine, engineering, pharmacy, and social and behavioral science.

“We are leveraging the expertise of virologists, physicians, and pharmacologists in Baltimore with computer scientists, epidemiologists, and molecular biologists in College Park,” said UMB President Bruce E. Jarrell, MD, FACS. “Together, we are addressing today’s urgent needs as well as the challenges of the future.”

— UMB Staff

DIVERSITY

MARCH 2021

WUTOH: DR. KING'S WORDS STILL RING TRUE AMID DUAL PANDEMICS



FROM LEFT, THE DIVERSITY RECOGNITION AWARD WINNERS: ESEOZA FERNANDES, SANDRA QUEZADA, STUDENT NATIONAL DENTAL ASSOCIATION, AND MISHAWN SMITH.

“Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health is the most shocking and most inhumane.”

“White America needs to understand that it is poisoned to its soul by racism.”

Amid a global pandemic and a reckoning on racial injustice, those words from the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. could just as easily have been spoken now rather than over 50 years ago, Anthony K. Wutoh, PhD '96, BSP '90, RPh, said in addressing the University of Maryland, Baltimore's (UMB) Dr. King and Black History Month celebration.

Wutoh, Howard University's provost and chief academic officer, illustrated his point while discussing COVID-19's impact on communities of color, which he called “alarming” because of the disproportionate number of deaths they have suffered. He added that communities of color also were least prepared for the pandemic's widespread effects such as lockdowns and virtual schooling.

“The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the impact of the various societal and racial disparities in health care, economic status, housing, and access to resources that Dr. King spoke against, protested, was jailed for, and ultimately was assassinated addressing,” Wutoh said during his keynote address, given via taped videoconference Feb. 4.

He said that Dr. King's speech in which he discussed inequality of health and human rights rings just “as true in 2021 as in 1966.”

In addressing systemic racism in the United States, Wutoh talked about the deaths of Breonna Taylor and George Floyd in 2020 at the hands of police officers and the widespread protests that resulted.

“This spark, which finally seemed to awaken the sleeping conscience of white America, was reminiscent of the videos of dogs being unleashed on peaceful protesters during the civil rights era, police brandishing and using clubs and other weapons on men, women, and children asking to be treated equally under the law, and fire hoses and other instruments of violence thrusting innocent people against the walls and into the ground, helpless to defend themselves,” he said.

“It seemed that as we were managing through one global pandemic, the reckoning of systemic racism forced Americans to ask what kind of country it is that we live in if this is the way that other Americans are being mistreated, abused, and killed while we silently ignore their plight.”

He quoted Dr. King's address to social scientists in 1967: “The policymakers of white society have caused the darkness. They create discrimination. They structured slums, and they perpetuate unemployment, ignorance, and poverty.”

“One could read the text of the speech and almost forget that this was not written in 2020,” he said.

PARALLELS TO GHANA HIT HOME

Wutoh drew parallels between the double pandemics of today and Dr. King's visit to Ghana during its independence ceremonies in 1957. Wutoh, who emigrated with his family from Ghana to Maryland's Eastern Shore when he was a child, said Dr. King's visit showed his global impact.

“Dr. King's voyage was symbolic of a growing international alliance of oppressed people and his goal to broaden the scope of the civil rights efforts beyond the American South,” Wutoh said. “Dr. King certainly identified with the struggles of the newly independent Ghanaians and noted a significant parallel between

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the resistance against colonialism and the struggles to overcome racism in the United States.”

Wutoh said that Dr. King cried for joy as he saw the jubilation of hundreds of thousands of Ghanaians.

“The reflections of Dr. King highlight what we are increasingly aware of today. We live in a dramatically more interdependent world where the impacts on the lives of people in one corner of the world have an indirect — or even sometimes a direct effect — on the lives of people a world away,” he said.

Wutoh was introduced by UMB President Bruce E. Jarrell, MD, FACS, who said he has been inspired by and felt a connection to the speakers the University has hosted at the Dr. King event over the years.

“They have given me a chance to listen and to learn about the issues to make sure I am more informed and able to take better actions,” he said. “There is so much work yet to be done. Our celebration of Dr. King serves as our call to action — a challenge to get to work.”

Jarrell later congratulated the University’s Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Diversity Recognition Award winners:

- **Outstanding Faculty:** Sandra M. Quezada, MD, MS, associate professor, Department of Medicine, University of Maryland School of Medicine, and the school’s associate dean for admissions and assistant dean for faculty diversity and inclusion
- **Outstanding Staff:** Mishawn Smith, MPA, executive administrative assistant, Office of Diversity and Inclusion, University of Maryland School of Nursing
- **Outstanding Student:** Eseosa Fernandes, MD, MPH, University of Maryland Graduate School
- **Outstanding Student:** Student National Dental Association, University of Maryland School of Dentistry

The program also highlighted the winners of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Oratorical Contest. The first-place winners recited their works: Shayla Monroe, Southwest Baltimore Charter School, middle school essay; Kamri Moses, Western High School, high school essay; and Shakeer Franklin, Bard High School, high school creative.

The event concluded with a reading of the late U.S. Rep. John Lewis’ essay, “Together, You Can Redeem the Soul of Our Nation,” by Russell A. McClain, JD, professor, University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law.



ANTHONY WUTOH CALLED COVID-19’S IMPACT ON COMMUNITIES OF COLOR “ALARMING” IN HIS MLK AND BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION KEYNOTE SPEECH.

INSPIRATION FROM THE NEXT GENERATION

Participants also could tour a virtual lobby of research posters by UMB CURE Scholars. Presentations included “Hypersegregated Neighborhoods in Baltimore: Roland Park” by Ayishat Yussuf; “Breast Cancer in African American Women” by Jaliyah Smith; and “Forensic Fingerprinting” by Zoe Fisher.

After the event, Wutoh joined the CURE Scholars via Zoom for a question-and-answer session. He told the scholars he was impressed with their research posters and thrilled to see so many young, Black students interested in pursuing careers in science, technology, engineering, and math.

The scholars had many questions for Wutoh about his career, his education, and his values. They also asked if he had ever experienced racism and how he dealt with it.

“Unfortunately, we live in a world where people are not as respectful to Black individuals and people of color,” he said. “This country is getting better at dealing with racism and making sure that people are treated fairly and with respect, but we still have a way to go; however, I feel very encouraged by your generation because you have the confidence and capabilities to speak up for what’s right.”

— Jen Badie and Jena Frick

Watch a video of the event and read about the Diversity Recognition Award winners.

PHILANTHROPY

MARCH 2021

SCHOOL OF NURSING RECEIVES \$13.8 MILLION GIFT FOR SCHOLARSHIPS, RENOVATIONS

The University of Maryland School of Nursing (UMSON) has received its largest gift ever, a \$13.83 million commitment from Bill and Joanne Conway through their Bedford Falls Fund to create an additional 345 Conway Scholarships that span all degree programs and cover in-state tuition, fees, and (at the undergraduate level) books.

This transformational gift is the fourth donation to UMSON from the Conways, who have pledged nearly \$30 million over the past six years. At the conclusion of this pledge, which will support students from fall 2022 to fall 2027, the Conways will have funded more than 830 Conway Scholarships.

The gift also includes \$1 million to support renovation of the nursing building at the Universities at Shady Grove (USG) in Rockville, Md. UMSON offers its Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program and its Doctor of Nursing Practice Family Nurse Practitioner specialty at USG; to provide space for these programs' growth, USG's Building I has been designated solely for UMSON. The renovation of this space will allow for significant expansion of the simulation labs, create a student success suite, and provide an administrative suite.

As a sign of gratitude for the Conways' generosity, the UMSON deanship now carries the Conway name, becoming the "Bill and Joanne Conway Dean of the University of Maryland School of Nursing."

"Right now, as we face the COVID-19 pandemic, the need for nurses is especially acute," said University of Maryland, Baltimore President Bruce E. Jarrell, MD, FACS. "The Conways' extraordinary generosity continues to help meet that need and propel the University of Maryland School of Nursing forward. Countless lives will be positively impacted because of their support."

In April 2015, the Conways made their first pledge, \$5.24 million over five years, to UMSON to expand enrollment in the entry-into-nursing BSN program and to increase opportunities for registered nurses to obtain their BSN degrees. Less than two years later, they pledged \$2 million to provide scholarships for master's and doctoral students and to support the launch of the Family Nurse Practitioner specialty at USG. In April 2018, they pledged \$8.2 million to continue the Conway Scholars Program.

The Conway Scholars represent the diversity of UMSON's student body, with 59 percent of the scholars from minority and underrepresented populations and 11 percent of them male. The scholars range in age from 18 to 52. In addition to full scholarships, Conway Scholars receive valuable coaching and mentoring services from faculty mentors through UMSON's Student Success Center.



BILL CONWAY (TOP ROW, CENTER) STANDS WITH A GROUP OF CONWAY SCHOLARS AT THE UNIVERSITIES AT SHADY GROVE IN FEBRUARY 2020.

The latest gift "allows us to continue meeting the critical need, in Maryland and nationally, for improving access to care and patient outcomes by increasing the number of nurses educated at the baccalaureate degree level or higher," said UMSON Dean Jane Kirschling, PhD, RN, FAAN. "Maryland has grown the percentage of BSN-prepared nurses in our hospitals and health care organizations to 60 percent, but we are still short of the national goal of 80 percent. In addition, the increasing need for primary care throughout our state means that education of advanced practice nurses is essential. Through the Conways' ongoing scholarship support, we are continuing to expand access to nursing education at all levels and, with it, our nursing workforce.

"These Conway Scholars are critical to providing the caliber of nursing care our patients, their families, and our communities require and deserve," Kirschling added. "They will help ensure that we can meet health care needs in all parts of our state, now and in the years to come. The Conways' extraordinary support for nursing is truly a game-changer."

— Laura Hager