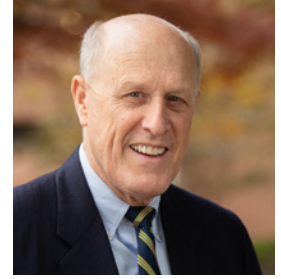


the PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

APRIL 2021



UMB'S VACCINE CLINIC PROVIDES A MAJOR DOSE OF HOPE

Most of us know the Southern Management Corporation (SMC) Campus Center as a hub on the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) campus. It's a building that houses many services including the University bookstore, two eateries, fitness center and swimming pool, three floors of recreation space, nine event and conference rooms, and many departments of Campus Life Services. In pre-COVID times, the space hosted more than 2,000 events annually. Now it is home to an important part of the fight against COVID-19 — a vaccine clinic.

As an anchor institution in Baltimore, it's incredibly important to UMB that those who are most affected by COVID-19 get vaccinated as soon as they are eligible. In December, UMB worked with the University of Maryland Medical System to open a fully operational clinic for health care workers and other front-line personnel to receive vaccinations against COVID-19. Our first day of operations was Jan. 6, and last month UMB took full responsibility for the continuation of the vaccine clinic at SMC.

We worked very closely with our partners and proactively reached out to the Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) letting our intention be known — UMB wants to serve its neighbors and get as many people vaccinated as possible. UMB is now vaccinating Baltimore City residents who have been referred by BCHD, as well as eligible faculty, staff, and students from UMB. Through partners like the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the Esperanza Center to reach Spanish-

speaking individuals, and the Indian Health Service to reach individuals of Native American descent, UMB is instrumental in vaccinating the community.

Over 30,000 vaccines have been administered on UMB's campus this year. This has been no small feat of coordination — from setting up appropriately spaced stations to training volunteers, UMB faculty, staff, and students have rallied around this important effort. Close to 1,300 individuals have completed training necessary to work at the clinic — and that number continues to grow. Jobs at SMC include vaccinators, registrars, navigators, greeters, student supervisors, call center staff, resource nurses, observation nurses, advance practice provider nurses, pharmacists, pharmacist techs, site leads, and site managers.

This also has been a real-time, hands-on learning opportunity for many UMB students. Students from the School of Pharmacy are volunteering their time to prepare each of the vaccine doses, and students from the School of Medicine, School of Nursing, and School of Pharmacy are among the volunteers giving vaccination shots in the clinic.

Folks have worked close to 25,000 hours at SMC — and that total doesn't include indirect support. This has been a Universitywide effort with support from Environmental Services, UMB Police, Central Administration Support Services, Operations and Maintenance, Human Resource Services, Communications and Public Affairs, the Provost's Office, Administration and Finance, Procurement, and so many others.

Leading the effort has been the Office of Emergency Management, the School of Nursing, and the Division of Student Affairs — a lean team of experts who have worked far more than 40 hours a week for many weeks now getting us to this point. I especially want to thank Laura Cathcart, PhD, training and exercise program manager; Christopher Stanton, MS, deputy director of emergency management; Jonathan Bratt, MS, executive director of emergency management; Hayley Markman, MS, continuity of operations program manager; Jane M. Kirschling, PhD, RN, FAAN, the Bill and Joanne Conway Dean of the School of Nursing; Bill Crockett, MS, RCRSP, executive director, Student Affairs; Ann B. Mech, JD, MS, RN, director, Legal Affairs, School of Nursing; Cherokee Layson-Wolf, PharmD, BCACP, FAPhA, associate professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science (PPS)



PHOTO BY MATTHEW D'AGOSTINO
NAYA WHITE OF THE SCHOOL OF NURSING RECEIVES HER FIRST COVID-19 VACCINE SHOT AT THE SMC CAMPUS CENTER.

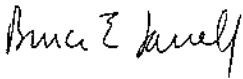
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and associate dean of student affairs, School of Pharmacy; Jill Morgan, PharmD, BCPS, BCPPS, associate professor and chair, PPS, School of Pharmacy; Brian Coats, DS, MS, associate vice president, technology operations and planning; and Juliet Dickerson, MS, interim associate vice president, Human Resource Services, for their extraordinary efforts in this tremendous endeavor.

Vaccines save lives, and I'm proud of the effort the UMB community has put into getting people vaccinated. Together, we will get through this pandemic.


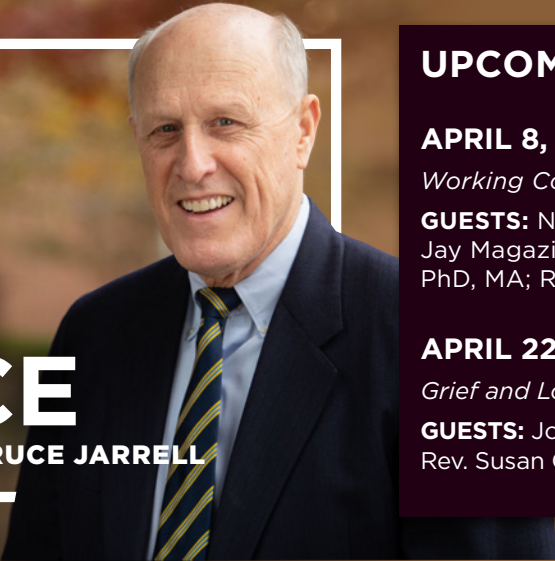
Sincerely,



Bruce E. Jarrell, MD, FACS
PRESIDENT



PHOTO BY MATTHEW D'AGOSTINO
THE SMC CAMPUS CENTER VACCINE CLINIC IS A SHINING EXAMPLE OF COLLABORATION AMONG UMB SCHOOLS AND CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION.



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

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

APRIL 8, 2 P.M.
Working Collaboratively to Reframe Aging
GUESTS: Nicole Brandt, PharmD, MBA; Jay Magaziner, PhD, MSHyg; Diane Martin, PhD, MA; Rona Kramer, JD

APRIL 22, 2 P.M.
Grief and Loss in a Pandemic
GUESTS: John Cagle, PhD, MSW, and Rev. Susan Carole Roy, DMin, BCC

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

LAURELS

APRIL 2021

UNIVERSITYWIDE



MICHELLE PERALTA

Michelle Peralta, MPH, senior assistant director, Wellness Hub, presented “The Science of Mindfulness and Meditation” at the University of Maryland

Medical Center Resident Wellness and Resilience Retreat on Feb. 17.



M.J. TOOLEY



LAUREN WHEELER

M.J. Tooley, MLS, AHIP, FMLA, associate vice president, Academic Affairs, and executive director, Health Sciences and Human Services Library (HSHSL), and **Lauren Wheeler, MLIS**, information services librarian, HSHSL, co-authored the chapter “Developing a Multi-Faceted, Intentional Approach to Library Promotion Through an Effective Communications Committee: A Case Study” for the book “Planning and Prompting Library Events in Health Sciences Libraries.”

SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY



GARY HACK



THOMAS W. OATES

Gary Hack, DDS, clinical associate professor, Division of Prosthodontics; **Se-Lim Oh, DMD, MS**, clinical associate professor, Division of Periodontics; and **Thomas W. Oates, DMD, PhD**, professor and chair, all from the Department of Advanced Oral Sciences and Therapeutics, co-authored “Remote Diabetes Screening Exercise in the Second-Year Periodontics Course and Student Perceptions,” which was published in the *Journal of Dental Education* on Feb. 20.

William F. Hoffman Jr., MAS, research administrator, presented “Research Finance” at the Society of Research Administrators International’s Financial Management Conference on Feb. 24.



MARK D. MACEK

Mark D. Macek, DDS, DrPH, professor, Department of Dental Public Health, and assistant dean for curriculum innovation and scholarship, was named a director of the American Board of Dental Public Health.

Carly Miller, a student in the BS/MS Dual Degree Clinical Dental Hygiene Leader Track Class of 2022, was accepted to the Student Advisory Board at the Universities at Shady Grove.



CARLY MILLER



LASHONDA SHEPHERD



FREDERICK FLANAGAN

LaShonda Shepherd, Class of 2021 student, and **Frederick Flanagan**, Class of 2022 student, are the inaugural recipients of the Dean’s Scholarship for Leadership and Excellence, given to dental students who excel academically and exhibit leadership within their class and community.

GRADUATE SCHOOL



VIRGINIA ROWTHORN

Virginia Rowthorn, JD, LLM, associate professor, Graduate School, and assistant vice president for global engagement and executive

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

APRIL 2021

director, Center for Global Engagement, UMB, spoke on the Association of International Education Administrators' "Global Learning in Service to Local and Regional Impact" panel Feb. 17.

CAREY SCHOOL OF LAW



CHAZ ARNETT

Chaz Arnett, JD, associate professor, wrote "Race, Surveillance, Resistance," which was published in the *Ohio State Law Journal*.



TAUNYA LOVELL BANKS

Taunya Lovell Banks, JD, wrote "Personal Identity Equality and Racial Misrecognition: Review Essay of Multiracials and Civil Rights: Mixed-Race

Stories of Discrimination," which was published in the *Journal of Civil Rights and Economic Development*.

Donald Gifford, JD, professor, co-authored "2021-2 Cumulative Supplement to Harper, James and Gray on Torts."



DONALD GIFFORD



LEIGH GOODMARK

Leigh Goodmark, JD, professor and co-director, Clinical Law Program, was a guest on National Public Radio's "1A" program to discuss "Coercive Control and the Definition of Domestic Abuse" on Feb. 11.

Mark Graber, JD, professor, wrote "Their Fourteenth Amendment, Section 3 and Ours," which was published in *Just Security* on Feb. 16.

Michael Greenberger, JD, professor and director, Center for Health and Homeland Security, was quoted in "J&J and Merck Combine Forces Under Defense Production Act," which was published on Fox 45-Baltimore's website on March 3.



TOBY GUERIN

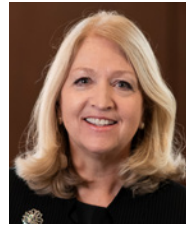
Toby Guerin, JD, co-director, Center for Dispute Resolution, presented "Secrets Revealed: What No One Told You About Online Instruction"

at the Northern California Alternative Dispute Resolution Faculty Conference on Feb. 19.

Seema Kakade, JD, associate professor, was quoted in "Harvard Law School Professor Wendy B. Jacobs, Who Pursued Environmental Law to 'Make a Difference,' Dies at 64," which was published in the *Harvard Crimson* on Feb. 16.

Paula Monopoli, JD, director, Women, Leadership, and Equality Program, had

her article "The Constitutional Development of the Nineteenth Amendment in the Decade After Its Ratification" reprinted in "Women and Law: 2020-2021."



PAULA MONOPOLI



WILLIAM MOON

William Moon, JD, assistant professor, had his article "Delaware's New Competition" reviewed in the journal *Jotwell* by Professor Omari Simmons on Feb. 23.

Robert Percival, JD, professor and director, Environmental Law Program, co-authored "Environmental Cases Before the U.S. Supreme Court, American Law Institute" for the Environmental Law 2021 Conference.



RENA STEINZOR

Rena Steinzor, JD, professor, wrote "Regulatory Review, Biden Style," which was published in the "Regulatory Review Blog" on Feb. 15.



DONALD TOBIN

Donald Tobin, JD, dean and professor, wrote "The Tax Code Can Save the \$15 Minimum Wage," which was published in the "TaxProf Blog" on Feb. 27.

LAURELS

APRIL 2021

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

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



BIZHAN AARABI

Bizhan Aarabi, MD, J. Marc Simard, MD, PhD, and Charles A. Sansur, MD, all professors; **Gary Schwartzbauer, MD, PhD**, and **Kenneth**

Crandall, MD, both assistant professors, all from the Department of Neurosurgery, were among the co-authors of “Trends in Demographics and Markers of Injury Severity in Traumatic Cervical Spinal Cord Injury,” which was accepted for publication in the *Journal of Neurotrauma*.



LINDA CHANG

Linda Chang, MD, MS, professor, Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, was among the co-authors of “Pharmaco-

therapeutics of SARS-CoV-2 Infections,” which was e-published in the *Journal of Neuroimmune Pharmacology*, and “Nanocarrier Vaccines for SARS-CoV-2,” which was e-published in *Advanced Drug Delivery Reviews*.

Seemant Chaturvedi, MD, FAHA, the Stewart J. Greenebaum Endowed Professor of Stroke Neurology,



SEEMANT CHATURVEDI

Department of Neurology, wrote “To Screen or Not to Screen for Carotid Stenosis: Is That the Question?” which was e-published in *JAMA Neurology*.

Wilbur Chen, MD, MS, FACP, FISDA, professor, Department of Medicine, presented “Lightning Talks in Regulatory Science: Vaccine Platforms for Rapid Product Development” at the University of California, San Francisco-Stanford Center of Excellence in Regulatory Science and Innovation’s 2021 Innovations in Regulatory Science Summit on Jan. 10.



CURT CIVIN

Curt Civin, MD, professor of pediatrics and physiology, associate dean for research, and director, Center for Stem Cell Biology and Regenerative Medicine,

received a nine-month grant from the Maryland Innovation Initiative and Geminus Therapeutics for “Developing Best-in-Class Artemisinin ART714 for Treating Leukemia.”



CHARLES HONG

Charles Hong, MD, PhD, the Melvin Sharoky, MD Professor in Medicine and director of cardiology research; **W.**

Jonathan Lederer, MD, PhD, professor of physiology and

director, Center for Biomedical Engineering and Technology; and **Alan Shuldiner, MD**, the John L. Whitehurst Professor of Medicine, associate dean for personalized and genomic medicine, and director, Clinical Translation Sciences Institute, were honored as Distinguished Fellows by the American Association for the Advancement of Science.



XIAOFENG JIA

Xiaofeng Jia, MD, PhD, professor, Department of Neurosurgery, was awarded a five-year, \$2.3 million ROI grant from the National Institutes of Health for

“Stem Cell Surface Modification to Promote Nerve Regeneration.”



VICTORIA MARCHESE

Victoria Marchese, PT, PhD, associate professor and chair, Department of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science, was a panelist for the

UMBrella Coaching Program session “Her Path, Her Potential: A Career Panel Discussion” on Jan. 12.



AMAL MATTU

Amal Mattu, MD, professor, Department of Emergency Medicine, wrote “COVID-19 Has Turned Cardiac Resuscitation Upside Down,” which was

published by Medscape.com on Jan. 27.

LAURELS

APRIL 2021



ISTVAN
MERENTHALER

Istvan Merenthaler, MD, PhD, DSc, professor, Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, received a five-year, \$3,009,102 National Institutes

of Health grant for “Brain-Selective Estrogen Therapy for Menopausal Hot Flashes in an Advanced Translational Animal Model.” **Adam Puche, PhD**, professor, Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology, is a co-principal investigator on the grant.



PRANSHU MOHINDRA

Pranshu Mohindra, MD, associate professor, Department of Radiation Oncology, was among the co-authors of “Complications of Intracavitary

Brachytherapy for Gynecologic Cancers and Their Management: A Comprehensive Review,” which was e-published in *Brachytherapy* on Jan. 19.



EMERSON WICKWIRE

Emerson Wickwire, PhD, associate professor, Departments of Psychiatry and Medicine, was lead author of “CPAP Adherence Is Associated with

Reduced Risk for Stroke Among Older Adult Medicare Beneficiaries with Obstructive Sleep Apnea,” which published in the *Journal of Clinical Sleep Medicine* in February.



YUPING “PING”
ZHONG

Yuping “Ping” Zhong, MS, accounting manager, Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology, was honored as UMB’s February Employee

of the Month for going above and beyond to ensure accuracy in financials as the Quantum system was being implemented.



LIN ZOU

Lin Zou, MD, PhD, and **Brittney Williams, MD**, both assistant professors, Department of Anesthesiology, and **Wei Chao, MD, PhD**,

FAHA, Anesthesiology Endowed Professor in Translational Research, were among the co-authors of “Targeting Toll-Like Receptors in Sepsis — from Bench to Clinical Trials,” which was published in *Antioxid Redox Signal* on Feb. 15.

SCHOOL OF NURSING

UMSON launched agreements of dual admission with Hagerstown Community College and Allegany College of Maryland, thus completing formal partnerships with every community college in Maryland that offers an Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) program. The agreements enable a smooth transition from ADN programs to UMSON’s Bachelor of Science in Nursing program.

The Nurse Leadership Institute (NLI) at USMON announced its 2020-21 cohort of NLI Fellows, the institute’s sixth cohort and the first admitted under its renewed five-year, \$1.7 million grant. The 46 nurse educators and clinicians from throughout Maryland were selected through a competitive application process and are participating in a yearlong program designed to prepare nurse faculty and practitioners to assume leadership positions and participate as full partners in developing health care delivery models that improve health outcomes for Maryland residents.



KATIE BOSTON-
LEARY

Katie Boston-Leary, PhD, MBA, MHA, RN, NEA-BC, adjunct faculty, was among the co-authors of “The US

COVID-19 Crises: Facts, Science and Solidarity,” which was published in *International Nursing Review* in January.



KELLY DORAN



DORIS TITUS-GLOVER

Kelly Doran, PhD, RN, and **Doris Titus-Glover, PhD, RN**, both assistant professors, were awarded 2021-22 Accelerated Translational Incubator Pilot grants from

LAURELS

APRIL 2021

UMB's Institute for Clinical and Translational Research. Doran was awarded \$40,000 for "Towards Predictive and Proactive In-the-Moment Stress Management Among Healthcare Workers: A Pilot Study in Long-Term Care." Titus-Glover was awarded \$30,000 for "Exploring Recovery-Oriented Capital Support Factors (Personal, Social, Family Functioning and Community) to Sustain Opioid Addiction Recovery."



CINDY PUMPHREY

Cindy Pumphrey, MS, associate director of records and registration, was elected to the nominations and elections committee for the Middle States

Association of Collegiate Registrars and Officers of Admission.

Kristen Rawlett, PhD, FNP-BC, FAANP, assistant professor, presented her research "Eliciting the Perceived Needs of Students, Parents & Teachers for Psychological Well-Being in Urban Dwelling Adolescents" at the Southern Nursing Research Society's 2021 Virtual Annual Conference on Feb. 24.

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

Mathangi Gopalakrishnan, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, received a one-year, \$350,000 contract from Partner Therapeutics for "Proposal for Leukine Analysis & Reporting."



JULIE JEONG

Julie Jeong, second-year student, was appointed a member-at-large of the American Pharmacists Association-Academy of Student

Pharmacists Region 2.



JACE JONES

Jace Jones, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, received a one-year, \$67,965 contract from MassTech, Inc. for

"Development of a Standard Protocol for COVID-19 Detection, Using Bio-Typing Through Viral Proteins."



HANNA LEFEBRE

Hanna Lefebvre, third-year student, received a College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists (CPNP) Foundation grant to attend CPNP's

2021 Virtual Annual Meeting.



DANIEL MANSOUR

Daniel Mansour, BCGP, FASCP, AGSF, interprofessional clinical coordinator, Peter Lamy Center on Drug Therapy and Aging, was accepted

into UMB's Fellows Program in Community Engagement.

Joey Mattingly, PharmD, MBA, PhD, associate professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research, received a one-year, \$34,567 contract from Johns Hopkins University for "Resolve to Save Lives."



JANA SHEN

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

\$1,419,276 grant from the National Institutes of Health for "A Multi-Pronged Computational Approach to Advance Kinase Drug Discovery."



PATRICK WINTROBE

Patrick Wintrobe, PhD, associate professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, received a seven-month, \$29,290 contract from Johns Hopkins University

for "Toward Targeting Bacterial Metabolism: Relevance, Mechanism and Function of DXP Synthase."

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

Melissa Bellin, PhD, associate professor, and alumnus **Rachel Margolis, PhD '20**, were among the

LAURELS

APRIL 2021

co-authors of “Self-Management and Spina Bifida: A Systematic Review of the Literature,” which was published in the *Disability and Health Journal*.



MELISSA BELLIN

Suzanne Fields, MSW, senior advisor for health care policy and financing, The Institute for Innovation and Implementation, was appointed to the Brookings Institution’s Children’s/Young Adults Mental Health Working Group.

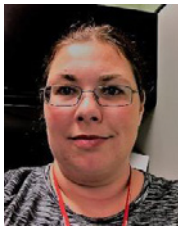


SUZANNE FIELDS

Theda Rose, PhD, assistant professor, joined the editorial board of the *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*.



THEDA ROSE



KAREN BURRESS

Karen Burress, PhD student, and **Julie Oktay, PhD**, professor emeritus, were among the co-authors of “Did COVID-19 Change the Interventions Provided

by Oncology Social Workers in the Epicenter of the Pandemic? A Natural Experiment,” which was published in *Oncology Social Work Intervention Index*.



LAURIE GRAHAM

Laurie Graham, PhD, assistant professor, was among the co-authors of “Disparities in Potential Years of Life Lost Due to Intimate Partner Violence: Data from 16 States for 2006–2015,” which was published in *PLOS ONE*.



CLARK SHAH-NELSON

Clark Shah-Nelson, PhD, assistant dean of instructional design and technology, was among the co-authors of “How HRM and Knowledge

Sharing Technologies Foster Virtual Team Productivity for Globally Dispersed Workforces,” which was published in the *Journal of Human Resources Management*.



CHRISTABEL CHEUNG

Christabel Cheung, PhD, assistant professor, and colleagues developed the updated chapter “Adolescent and Young Adult Patients” in the Oxford

Medicine textbook “Psycho-Oncology: Fourth Edition.”

Sarah Dababnah, PhD, associate professor, was appointed to the World Health Organization’s Rehabilitation Programme Development Group for Autism Spectrum Disorder.



NALINI NEGI

Nalini Negi, PhD, associate professor; **Jenny Siegel**, PhD student; and alumni **Priya Sharma** and **Gabriel Fiallos** co-authored

“‘The Solitude Absorbs and It Oppresses’: ‘Illegality’ and Its Implications on Latino Immigrant Day Laborers’ Social Isolation, Loneliness and Health,” which was published in *Social Science and Medicine*.



MELISSA SMITH

Melissa Smith, PhD, associate professor, wrote “Special Considerations in Social Network Interviewing and Mapping with Vulnerable Populations,”

which was published in *Field Methods*.

LEADERSHIP

APRIL 2021

AFTER TRANSFORMATIVE TENURE, REECE TO STEP DOWN AS DEAN IN 2022

University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMSOM) Dean E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA, a leader who elevated UMSOM into a top-tier biomedical research and patient-focused academic center, announced that he will complete his 16-year tenure as dean at the end of the academic year in 2022. He will return to the UMSOM faculty, where he will lead a new center and continue research and teaching.

University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) President Bruce E. Jarrell, MD, FACS, praised Reece for his contributions and announced a national search for a replacement.

“I wish to thank Dean Reece for his outstanding leadership in creating an even stronger medical school and wish him all the best as he transitions out of the deanship,” Jarrell said. “Dean Reece leaves the School of Medicine in an excellent position for a new leader to take the school into a post-COVID world.”

Reece, who also is the John Z. and Akiko K. Bowers Distinguished Professor at UMSOM and executive vice president for medical affairs at UMB, was appointed as UMSOM’s 30th dean in 2006. During his tenure, he led UMSOM through a period of unprecedented, record-breaking growth and achievements across all areas of its operation, enabling the school to reach major milestones in research, clinical care, reputation, and global impact.

Under Reece’s leadership:

- UMSOM achieved record levels of research activity and funding — growing from \$323 million to more than half a billion dollars.
- Clinical revenues more than doubled, increasing from \$160 million to \$351 million, with UMSOM faculty providing outpatient and inpatient care to more than 1.5 million patients a year.
- Clinical practice locations expanded across the state, growing from six to 60 locations.
- UMSOM’s global footprint expanded to research and treatment facilities in more than 30 countries.
- UMSOM became a hub of innovation with 576 scientific disclosures, 130 U.S. patents issued, 228 foreign patents issued, 205 technology inventions licensed, and 33 startup companies formed.

Reece also provided steady leadership through two economic recessions and two pandemics (Ebola and COVID-19). During the COVID-19 pandemic, UMSOM emerged as one of the medical schools on the front lines, providing statewide COVID-19 testing, national leadership in vaccine development, clinical trials of two of the COVID-19 vaccines now approved by the Food and Drug Administration for emergency use authorization, and the research and testing of therapeutics for COVID-19.

“I deem it a distinct honor and privilege to have led UMSOM,” Reece said. “Much of the accomplishments and successes at the school are due to the excellent team I have been blessed to work with and the support of UMB leadership over the years. The support from the UMSOM Board of Visitors, alumni, directors, chairs, dean’s senior staff, and assistants has been truly invaluable.”

During his deanship, Reece presided over dramatic growth of an academic enterprise that now totals 45 units, including 25 departments and 20 research centers, institutes, and programs. He expanded UMSOM’s academic facilities to 17 buildings, covering more than 2.5 million square feet of research and academic space, and led the planning and construction of the 430,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art Health Sciences Research Facility III.



E. ALBERT REECE HAS BEEN THE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE'S DEAN SINCE 2006.

Reece’s commitment to increasing diversity across UMSOM ignited positive changes and resulted in growing numbers of women and underrepresented minorities among senior leadership, faculty, and students. Specifically, women now make up more than 40 percent of UMSOM’s senior leadership, and the percentage of women faculty has increased to 40 percent, with underrepresented minorities making up 11 percent. In the student body, 60 percent of students are now women, and 25 percent are underrepresented minorities.

“Dean Reece’s mark on the School of Medicine is unmistakable; he’s been integral to its enormous success,” said University System of Maryland Chancellor Jay A. Perman, MD, the former president of UMB. “It’s fitting that Dean Reece leaves the deanship at a time when the school is enjoying such well-deserved acclaim, nationally and internationally.”

— UMSOM Staff

Read more about Dean Reece.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

APRIL 2021

UMBRELLA SYMPOSIUM EXPLORES WORK-LIFE DEMANDS, BALANCE

Self-care. Me time. Work-life balance.

Are these buzzwords women throw around to take a break from the spouse and kids? Or vitally important aspects of maintaining one's sanity in the midst of a pandemic filled with long days of teleworking, home schooling, and social isolation?

According to a powerhouse lineup of speakers at the University of Maryland, Baltimore's (UMB) March 9 Women's History Month virtual symposium "The Myth of Balance or The Art of Being Unbalanced," it's the latter — and we are all a little weary.



DERIONNE POLLARD (LEFT) AND PAMELA PEEKE DELIVERED KEYNOTE ADDRESSES DURING THE WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH SYMPOSIUM.

"What a year it has been to celebrate and understand the role and importance of women in our society," UMB President Bruce E. Jarrell, MD, FACS, said as he welcomed more than 300 attendees to the event sponsored by the UMBrella Group: UMB Roundtable on Empowerment in Leadership and Leveraging Aspirations. "And certainly, along with that, to recognize the profoundly harmful effect of the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly for working women."

Since February 2020, nearly 2.5 million women have exited the workforce, half a million more than men, Jarrell said, quoting a recent article he had read. "That impact has been even greater for Black, Latino, and Indigenous women who already have been faced with intersecting oppressions as well," he added.

Significantly more women than men also have reduced work hours or left work to care for children and spent more time on education and household tasks.

"But whether COVID is here today or after we are past the COVID crisis and back to some routine, UMB will need to evolve as well,"

Jarrell said. "And I want to underscore to all of you that UMB needs to evolve to become a place that is even more family-friendly ... where your concerns get heard, where your suggestions for improvement also get heard, and where our policies, practices, and priorities incorporate your suggestions to the greatest extent possible."

Founded in 2014 by Jennifer B. Litchman, MA, senior vice president for external affairs and special assistant to the president, UMBrella works to support the success of women and those who identify as women at UMB by helping them achieve their personal and professional goals, enhancing their leadership skills, and championing women at all levels of the organization.

"We're here today because we're seeking balance in our lives," Litchman said as she welcomed attendees. "We're trying to balance our personal lives with our professional lives, trying to balance taking care of our children, our pets, and perhaps even our parents while at the same time taking care of ourselves."

But women typically fail when it comes to taking care of themselves, said morning keynote speaker Pamela Peeke, MD, MPH, adjunct assistant professor of family medicine at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, Pew Foundation Scholar in Nutrition and Metabolism, and a fellow of the American College of Physicians and the American College of Sports Medicine.

"Since this is Women's History Month, I'm going to give a shout-out in a major way to women who get an F-minus in taking care of themselves most of the time and instead take care of anyone who comes within 100 feet of them, even if they don't know them," Peeke said. "It's about time to do the self-care thing and then celebrate whatever happens after that."

Research shows that people who are most successful in life prioritize a healthy lifestyle, a key component to self-care, Peeke said. A morning routine of gratitude, affirmations, and exercise sets her on the path to a successful day.

From working in an operating room where only male doctors were equipped with scrubs while female doctors were required to wear dresses, to having a young male flower shop employee ask her "Where is Dr. Peeke?" as he stood right in front of her, women are still not on a level playing field, she said. Despite lacking any female mentors during her medical training, she refused to be discouraged.

"I lived in a world that was a bit different, but that was OK. You know why? I'm resilient. I'm resilient and I would say to myself, 'Well, OK, if things aren't exactly ideal for me right now, can I find the little openings in the gaps and make it

Continued from previous page

work for myself? Can I do that?’ Of course I could, and I usually did it on a routine basis.”

STEPPING BACK, MOVING FORWARD

DeRionne Pollard, PhD, MA, president of Montgomery College, painted a similar picture in her afternoon keynote as she shared her story about striving for balance in a demanding world of higher education leadership and her journey back to the office after a life-changing six-month sabbatical.

“Any of you who struggled with the world of professional life and parenting or family care know that these latter roles are oftentimes more taxing than any of us even really acknowledge,” Pollard said. “The other ones don’t end at 5 p.m., and they don’t shut down on weekends.”

The number of women who have exited the workforce during the pandemic because of the demands of working while homeschooling raises important questions about income inequality and gender that will be debated for a long time, she added. “But there are some issues facing us right now that are very unique to this COVID moment and create some true challenges to the idea — or maybe I say the ideal — of balance.”

Answering a need to find her own sense of balance, Pollard took a six-month sabbatical that ended in January 2020.

“After eight years as the college president, I needed to regroup and reassess,” she said. “When I took this timeout, I did it with a plan for some inward looking and discovered that I really wanted

to come back refreshed but I also wanted to be able to show up differently. I wanted to be more authentic.”

During her sabbatical, she began a daily meditation practice that she continues. She hired a personal trainer and a dietitian and addressed medical issues with her physician.

“My health was not at the level that I knew that it should be. It was compromising my ability to do my work as well as I wanted to,” she said.

Confronting challenges in herself and working through them during this period of being away from academia led her to develop a series of recommendations: *Live simply. Give more. Expect less. Free your mind from worry. Free yourself from hatred.*

“Now, I can’t say I do these every day. On a good day I might hit three out of the five,” Pollard said.

The event also featured five breakout sessions dealing with topics such as financial planning, health and wellness, balancing child care and elder care, self-awareness, and coping with stressful triggers. Later, Zensational Kids founder Allison Morgan, MA, OTR, E-RYT, led participants through breathing and movement exercises, and the event closed with a networking lounge, where attendees could mingle virtually and share lessons learned.

— Mary Therese Phelan

Read more about the event.

UMBRELLA AWARDS

The inaugural UMBrella Awards were announced during this year’s Women’s History Month Symposium, recognizing the contributions made by individuals who espouse the UMBrella Group’s mission and goals. The winners:



UMBRELLA PERSON OF THE YEAR — ON THE RISE
Michele Ondra, MBA, MS, director, administration and operations, University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law



UMBRELLA PERSON OF THE YEAR — LEADING THE WAY
Isabel Rambob, DDS, clinical assistant professor, Department of Neural and Pain Sciences, University of Maryland School of Dentistry



UMBRELLA CHAMPION OF THE YEAR
Cherita Adams, MBA, MS, assistant dean for administration and strategic initiatives, University of Maryland School of Social Work

Read about the award winners.

COVID-19

APRIL 2021

SAFETY, EFFICACY, HESITANCY AMONG VACCINE TALK TOPICS

Throughout the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) virtual event “Should I Get the Shot? A Community Conversation,” the answer to the question was unequivocally “Yes.”

Fielding questions during the 90-minute online program hosted March 10 by the UMB Intercultural Center, two University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMSOM) doctors made clear their opinions that the COVID-19 vaccines being administered around the nation are safe and effective while acknowledging legitimate concerns related to vaccine hesitancy and mistrust among minority populations.

“There have been about 2.6 million reported deaths across the world due to COVID-19, and really no deaths that can be directly linked to getting the vaccines,” said Mario Majette, MD, MPH, clinical instructor in the Department of Family and Community Medicine and director of student and employee health at UMSOM. “There’s no comparison there. So if you’re a betting person, and you want to take your chances, I would definitely take my chances with the vaccine every day of the week and twice on Sundays.”

Milagritos Tapia, MD, a professor in the Department of Pediatrics and an infectious disease specialist at UMSOM’s Center for Vaccine Development and Global Health, also touted the vaccines’ safety and efficacy, adding that there should be no preference among any of the three authorized for emergency use by the Food and Drug Administration — from Moderna, Pfizer, and Johnson & Johnson.

“One thing I keep telling everybody is that the best vaccine is the vaccine that you can get,” she said. “If you go to the vaccination center, and that day they have Johnson & Johnson available and that isn’t the one you wanted, get it anyway. We are not in a position to say that one vaccine should be favored over another.”

One of the first questions from the audience raised concerns about the safety of the vaccines because of how quickly they were developed, compared to historical vaccine development. Majette aimed to alleviate the worries by comparing COVID-19 vaccine development to building a house, but whereas tradespeople — plumbers, electricians, HVAC technicians, carpet installers, etc. — take their turns, the vaccine development steps occurred at the same time.

“With vaccines, we start with research, then move to clinical trials in Phase 1, Phase 2, and Phase 3. The vaccines are developed, then there is distribution,” he said. “But with the COVID

vaccines, we didn’t skip any steps, we just did the steps in parallel. The U.S. government supported the vaccine makers by saying, ‘If you go ahead and start making this vaccine, we will back you so that you do not lose any revenue in the process.’

“Doing the steps in parallel cut down that process from many months and even years to eight or nine months. So people should understand that this was not done unsafely.”



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT, ALEX LIKOWSKI, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF MEDIA RELATIONS, UMB; MARIO MAJETTE; COURTNEY JONES CARNEY, DIRECTOR, UMB INTERCULTURAL CENTER; AND MILAGRITOS TAPIA.

Regarding vaccine hesitancy and historical medical mistrust among African American and other minority populations, the UMSOM experts said a little skepticism is understandable and healthy but reiterated that the COVID-19 vaccines should be accepted by all, especially since they are so effective in preventing hospitalization and death.

“There’s certainly more progress to be made, but systems have been developed and reinforced over the years to ensure that people who participate in clinical studies are safe and that ethical research is taking place,” Tapia said.

Majette added, “There’s no evidence whatsoever that this vaccine is not good for people of color. People of color should get the vaccine. In fact, we are really trying to make sure we get this vaccine out to our communities of color.”

— Lou Cortina

Read more and watch a video of the event.

PHILANTHROPY

APRIL 2021

\$5 MILLION DONATION FROM CHACÓNS WILL ESTABLISH CENTER FOR IMMIGRANT JUSTICE

The University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law received a \$5 million gift from biotech entrepreneurs Marco and Debbie Chacón to establish the Chacón Center for Immigrant Justice, dedicated to improving the lives of immigrants and their families while providing invaluable training for future lawyers.

Building on the success of the school's Immigration Law Clinic, the Chacón Center will establish a permanent immigration law center at the law school, ensuring that Maryland's immigrant community will always have a place to turn for high-quality legal representation. The center's faculty director will be Maureen Sweeney, JD, professor and director of the Immigration Law Clinic.



MARCO AND DEBBIE CHACÓN SAY THEY HOPE THE NEW CENTER "WILL HELP TO RESTORE THE PROMISE OF 'EQUAL JUSTICE FOR ALL' AND ENCOURAGE THE FULL PARTICIPATION OF NEW IMMIGRANTS IN SOCIETY."

The funding will continue critical pro bono clinic representation in deportation cases while simultaneously broadening its reach by creating a new Federal Appellate Clinic, launching a citizenship initiative, and expanding legislative efforts to promote critical law reform advocacy. The gift also will endow a faculty position and a permanent managing director for the new center.

In addition to providing vital legal services, the donation will create the Chacón Scholarship, which will allow Maryland Carey Law to recruit the best and brightest students interested in immigration law.

"We are deeply grateful to Marco and Debbie Chacón for their generous and transformative gift," said Maryland Carey Law Dean Donald B. Tobin, JD. "Their generosity will have a lasting impact on the immigrant community by providing access to free legal services while also training new generations of lawyers to represent

immigrants and their interests. We are humbled and honored that the Chacóns have entrusted us with this important mission."

Marco A. Chacón, PhD, founder and former CEO of Paragon Bioservices, Inc. — which became Paragon Gene Therapy after it was acquired by Catalent Pharma for \$1.2 billion in 2019 — is the embodiment of the American dream. Born in Costa Rica, he came to the United States in the late 1960s to pursue an education. Through determination and hard work, he became a successful biopharmaceutical entrepreneur, dedicated to improving lives through science.

Chacón credits his wife, Debbie, who served as vice president of Paragon Bioservices, with the bulk of their success. He also is the founder and CEO of Irazú Bio, a drug development company headquartered in the University of Maryland BioPark in Baltimore.

Concerned by the inequities faced by immigrants in the justice system — including marginal representation, forced deportations, and family separations — the Chacóns felt compelled to act.

The couple, impressed by the humanity, dedication, and passion of the faculty and students working in the Immigration Law Clinic, decided Maryland Carey Law was the right place for their investment.

"By endowing a center dedicated to promoting immigrant justice," they said in a joint statement, "new generations of students, jurists, and advocates will help to restore the promise of 'equal justice for all' and encourage the full participation of new immigrants in society who are following in the footsteps of previous waves of immigrants seeking the American dream."

Sweeney has been on a mission to improve the lives of immigrants through legal representation since she arrived at Maryland Carey Law in 2004. She has watched with alarm as the legal needs of a vulnerable client population increased and immigration became a battleground for civil rights in recent years.

The Chacóns' gift comes at the right time, noted Sweeney, whose immigration efforts were recognized with the University of Maryland, Baltimore's Public Servant of the Year Award in 2020.

"This extraordinary gift to endow the center will guarantee that the voice of Maryland's immigrants will be heard and protected far into the future and allow us to focus on building a just society by training future generations of advocates," she said.

— Laura Lee

CURECORNER

APRIL 2021

CAREER NAVIGATOR PROGRAM LAUNCHES AS NEXT PHASE OF CURE

Tyler McKenzie joined the University of Maryland, Baltimore's (UMB) CURE Scholars Program in 2015 as a sixth-grade student ready to learn and take on new challenges. Now, McKenzie is an 11th-grade student at Green Street Academy with plans to pursue a career as a neurosurgeon.

"CURE has given me a lot of experiences and opportunities to learn and meet professionals involved in the medical field, so I feel ready for what comes next," he said.

On Feb. 27, McKenzie and the rest of the scholars in his cohort officially entered the last leg of the CURE Program with the launch of the Career Navigator Program. This final piece of the pipeline is specifically geared toward 11th- and 12th-grade students as they fill out college applications, apply for scholarships, and make professional connections to help them secure internships and other educational opportunities.

"Today is a milestone for us," UMB CURE executive director Gia Grier McGinnis, DrPH, MS, said during the launch event. "These scholars have been with us since they were in sixth grade, and that's quite an accomplishment. Year after year, they have made a renewed investment in themselves and in their futures."

The mission of UMB CURE is to prepare West Baltimore students for careers in the health sciences and cancer research. This groundbreaking program was the first of its kind to introduce a STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) pipeline as early as sixth grade. When the scholars reached high school, the program expanded by adding a high school component called CURE Connections (C2), which is geared toward ninth- and 10th-grade students. Now that the Cohort 1 scholars are in 11th grade and on the verge of applying to colleges, UMB CURE has expanded to add the Career Navigator Program.

"The reason why this last piece of the program is so important is because our scholars come from underrepresented minority communities, and many of them are going to be the first in their families to pursue higher education," said Martina Efeyini, MS, the college and readiness coordinator and AmeriCorps Vista volunteer for UMB CURE.

Efeyini and her colleague, Ivan Lamas-Sanchez, MA, program manager for student scholar success, worked to plan a launch event to welcome the scholars and mentors to the Career Navigator Program.

Due to COVID-19 safety regulations, the scholars held the launch of the new program on Zoom. The launch began with a keynote address from Ryan Richardson, PhD, a biomedical engineer who is completing a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Maryland School of Medicine. Richardson also is an American Academy for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) fellow, which is a nationally competitive fellowship. He is a member of AAAS' Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math Affinity group, which is what connected him with UMB CURE. He talked about his academic and professional experiences and impressed upon the scholars that everyone's path to success is different.



"The scholars will have to make several life-changing decisions in a very short time frame, so we'll be looking to our Career Navigator mentors to help them process all the different options they'll have."

— Gia Grier McGinnis

"The lesson I learned is that life is an unexpected journey," Richardson told the scholars. "The way to get to a career in science might look different for a lot of different people, and no matter what your journey looks like, you shouldn't forget to have fun along the way."

After the keynote address, the scholars and mentors split into breakout rooms to participate in a poetry slam workshop led by Joseph Green, a spoken word artist and speaker. Efeyini thought

Continued from previous page

this would be a great way for the scholars to feel connected, not just to each other, but also to their mentors.

In small groups, the scholars and mentors were given a list of words. From those words, they selected 15 of them to arrange into a poem that described their shared experiences. At the end, each group had a chance to present their poems.

“It was cool getting to talk and share about my experiences,” McKenzie said. “It felt a little bit shaky here and there, but then we all got together. It’s funny because I wasn’t expecting it to be a good experience, but I loved it.”

This was also a great experience for the mentors, some of whom are just joining the program this year as a Career Navigator mentor. In this new mentorship role, the mentors will be participating in a virtual speaker series to help the scholars learn more about different STEM career fields and opportunities.

This mentorship role also will open up doors to summer internship opportunities for the scholars. The summer between their junior and senior year of high school is the most important, as this is the last opportunity for the scholars to add a professional internship to their résumés before applying to colleges in the fall.

“We are looking to the mentors to help the scholars complete their journey,” Grier McGinnis said. “The scholars will have to make several life-changing decisions in a very short time frame, so we’ll be looking to our Career Navigator mentors to help them process all the different options they’ll have, as well as share with them the importance of why they need to start building a professional network.”

The mentors and CURE staff will also be helping the scholars build individual portfolios of their work and what they have learned over the last 5½ years. This includes all of their research posters, STEM projects, and awards and accolades they have received.

“We want our scholars to feel prepared and excited about their collegiate experience,” Lamas-Sanchez said. “I think the biggest thing that I want them to take away from this is that there’s always going to be people who are willing and ready to help.”

— Jena Frick

Anyone interested in becoming a Career Navigator mentor can submit their application [here](#).



UMB STRATEGIC PLAN 2022-2026

VIRTUAL TOWN HALL APRIL 29, 2021 | 2 P.M.

2022-2026 STRATEGIC PLAN CO-CHAIRS

Judy L. Postmus, PhD, ACSW
Dean, School of Social Work

**Roger J. Ward, EdD, JD,
MSL, MPA**
Interim Provost, Executive
Vice President, and Dean
of the Graduate School

Dr. Postmus and Dr. Ward invite the UMB community to a virtual town hall to **discuss the themes of the University’s 2022-2026 Strategic Plan.**

LEARN MORE AT
umaryland.edu/strategicplan