

# FROM THE Dean's Desk



**ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON  
MEDICAL SCHOOL**  
University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey

## Message from the Dean

**O**ur students have given us much to celebrate. The Class of 2010 had an exceptional 98 percent match rate and will enter the nation's top residency programs. In addition, six members of our second- and third-year classes — the most in the history of the medical school — have been accepted as fellows by leading national research programs. Our Alumni Association recently hosted 126 guests at a happy hour where students enjoyed the opportunity to relax and meet informally with alumni and faculty. The collective success of our students is our proudest accomplishment, as we also celebrate the faculty's extraordinary achievements outside the classroom, in academic leadership, research, and publishing.

April saw the dedication of new space for The Cardiovascular Institute of New Jersey in the Clinical Academic Building. A superb symposium showcased the latest cardiovascular-related research conducted by institute's faculty.

We ended our academic year on another high note, as one of our distinguished alumni, F. Charles Brunicardi, MD '80, chair, Michael E. DeBaKey Department of Surgery, Baylor College of Medicine, delivered the keynote address at Convocation.

Congratulations to you all. I wish you a relaxing and productive summer.

*Peter S. Amenta, MD, PhD*  
Peter S. Amenta, MD, PhD  
Dean

## RWJMS Dedicates Space for The Cardiovascular Institute of New Jersey

**F**ollowing a dedication ceremony on April 29, The Cardiovascular Institute of New Jersey (CVINJ) at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School moved

into its new space in the Clinical Academic Building. A scientific symposium at the event showcased the latest cardiovascular-related research conducted by faculty of the institute.

The mission of CVINJ focuses on improving heart health by pioneering integrative strategies to prevent, treat, and cure heart disease; translate science and technology into new therapies; and train future leaders in cardiovascular medicine. Since its founding, the institute's efforts have centered on clinical research, cardiovascular pharmacology, disease management and biomedical engineering.

Established in 2001 with a \$10 million grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF), CVINJ has benefited from additional support from RWJF, the Schering-Plough Foundation, and many



Steve Haskett

**“The Cardiovascular Institute of New Jersey’s continuing development as a cardiovascular center of excellence reinforces its commitment to clinical research, prevention, diagnosis, treatment and education locally, across New Jersey and nationwide.”**

— John B. Kostis, MD

*Left to right: John B. Kostis, MD, the John G. Detwiler Chair of Cardiology, professor and chair, Department of Medicine, and founding director of the Cardiovascular Institute of New Jersey, Stephen K. Jones, FACHE, president and CEO, Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital and Peter S. Amenta, MD, PhD, dean*

individuals. With their help, CVINJ has brought together physicians and scientists who collaborate across many disciplines to advance research for the benefit of patient care and education.

“The Cardiovascular Institute of New Jersey’s continuing development as a cardiovascular center of excellence reinforces its commitment to clinical research, prevention, diagnosis, treatment and education locally, across New Jersey and nationwide,” said **John B. Kostis, MD**, the John G. Detwiler Chair of Cardiology, professor and chair, Department of Medicine, and founding director of CVINJ. “Most important, it will improve access to increasingly sophisticated research-based care for all patients.”

## III Foundation Honors Three Faculty Members

The Edward J. III Excellence in Medicine Foundation honored three RWJMS faculty members at its annual dinner and awards ceremony on May 5, in Princeton.

**Denise V. Rodgers, MD**, provost and executive vice president for academic and clinical affairs, UMDNJ, and professor of family medicine and community health, RWJMS, received the Edward J. III Physician's Award. The Outstanding Medical Research Scientist Award for Clinical Research was presented to **John B. Kostis, MD**, the John G. Detwiler Chair of Cardiology, professor and chair, Department of Medicine, and founding director of CVINJ. **Sidney Pestka, MD**, professor and chair, Department of Microbiology, Molecular Genetics, and Immunology, received the Outstanding Medical Research Scientist Award for Basic Biomedical Research. Starting this year, profits from the event will fund medical student scholarships in New Jersey.

## Morris Lecture Features Noted Microbiologist

On April 21, **Susan Lindquist, PhD**, professor of biology, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), delivered the 2010 N. Ronald Morris Lecture, "Protein Folding in Health and Disease." Dr. Lindquist is a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator and a member and former director of MIT's Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research. Her work on protein folding and the consequences of misfolding explains how protein conformational changes provide epigenetic

2 mechanisms of inheritance, sculpt phenotypic landscapes, shape evolutionary process, and cause devastating neurodegenerative diseases.

## RWJMS Sends 150 New Physicians to Residencies Nationwide

Members of the Class of 2010 eagerly awaited opening their envelopes at noon on March 18 to read the news of their residency match.

The results were excellent, and, as in previous years, the medical school's match rate of 98 percent stood well above the national average of 93.3 percent. Of the 150 students who graduated in 2010, 39



Steve Hochstein

matched to programs in New Jersey, including 27 to programs at UMDNJ.

## IN MEMORIAM



URSULA WARR

Robert L. Trelstad, MD

## Robert L. Trelstad, MD

With great sadness, the RWJMS community learned that **Robert L. Trelstad, MD**, passed away on February 16. "His extraordinary accomplishments were only matched by his collegiality and collaborative nature. He will be greatly missed in our community, nationally and internationally," said **Peter S. Amenta, MD, PhD**, dean.

Dr. Trelstad joined the faculty in 1981 as professor and chair of the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine and held that position until

1998, when he was appointed acting director and Harold L. Paz, MD Professor of Developmental Biology at the Child Health Institute of New Jersey. He served a pivotal role in the funding, planning, and construction of the new facility.

Dr. Trelstad received the National Distinguished

Teaching Award in Basic Sciences from Alpha Omega Alpha and the Association of American

Medical Sciences, and the Edward J. III Outstanding Medical Educator Award. He wrote more than 175 articles, which were published in journals that include *Nature*, *The Journal of Cell Biology*, the *New England Journal of Medicine*, and the *Journal of Biochemistry*.

## Tetsuo Shimamura, MD

Sadly, we report the passing of **Tetsuo Shimamura, MD**, professor of pathology and laboratory medicine. "He was an inspiration to those who were fortunate enough to be taught by him and to work with him," said **Evan Cadoff, MD**, professor and interim chair, Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine.

Dr. Shimamura began his career in the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine in June 1968 as an assistant professor, attaining the rank of professor in 1975. He was a dedicated educator, researcher, and physician, concentrating in renal pathology. Throughout his career, Dr. Shimamura published numerous articles and was the recipient of several academic and teaching awards. He retired in October 2007.

## Save the Date...

- **June 22: CHINJ Reception Welcoming Arnold R. Rabson, MD, Director**  
• 3:00–5:00 PM • CHINJ, Room 3101  
• Contact: *Jeannette Evans, evansje1@umdnj.edu*
- **July 23: Summer SEARCH/Community Oriented Primary Care Assistantship Closing Celebration** • 4:30–7:30 PM  
• CHINJ, Room 3101 • Contact: *J. Anna Looney, PhD, looneyja@umdnj.edu*

## NJBIZ "Top 50" Includes Dr. Owen and Three RWJMS Faculty

In their March 29 issue, the editors of *NJBIZ* published their picks for the "50 Most Powerful



William F. Owen, Jr., MD

People in Healthcare in New Jersey."

Among the leaders named was **William F. Owen, Jr., MD**, president, UMDNJ.



Jeffrey C. Brenner, MD '95

The list included three members of the RWJMS faculty — two of whom are alumni of the medical school:



Robert DiPaola, MD

**Jeffrey C. Brenner, MD '95**, instructor of family



Alfred F. Tallia, MD '78, MPH

medicine and community health, Camden campus, and medical director of the Camden Coalition

## FROM THE Dean's Desk

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Director: Patricia M. Hansen

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of Healthcare Providers; **Robert DiPaola, MD**, professor of medicine and director, The Cancer Institute of New Jersey; and **Alfred F. Tallia, MD '78, MPH**, professor and chair, Department of Family Medicine and Community Health.

*NJBIZ* writes that, in seeking to identify "the next generation of movers and shakers" in New Jersey's health care industry, its editors targeted the medical, insurance, pharmaceutical, biotech, and policy fields and spoke to insiders about who will influence and shape future health care policy.

## ALUMNI NEWS

**Lynn Helmer, MD '82, MBA**, was elected to the 2010-2011 board of directors of the American College of Physician Executives. Dr. Helmer is president of DRD Consulting in Haddon Heights, New Jersey.

## Alumni Association Awards Scholarships And Loans

The Alumni Association Board of Trustees approved \$151,200 in scholarships and loans to be awarded to RWJMS students during the 2010-2011 academic year. The scholarships include \$20,000/year awards to each of four Hippocrates Scholars, one in each class.

## Exhibit Portrays State's Medical History

Call the Doctor! Call the Nurse," a new exhibit at the historic Cornelius Low House Museum, 1225 River Road, Piscataway, portrays New Jersey's key role in the field of medicine. First-hand remembrances along with artifacts from doctors, pharmacies, and educational institutions help recount the state's medical history from 1775 to 1975. The exhibit includes artifacts from

UMDNJ and RWJMS. The display spans epidemics, potions, and remedies, as well as research and the advancement of Johnson & Johnson. It also spotlights treatments for mental illness and the role of women as nurses, healers, and midwives. The exhibit will be open Tuesdays through Fridays and Sundays, 1 to 4 p.m. through June 26.

For information call 732.745.4177.

## APPOINTMENTS

## Dr. Rabson Directs Child Health Institute Of New Jersey

**Peter S. Amenta, MD, PhD**, dean, appointed **Arnold B. Rabson, MD**, professor of molecular genetics, microbiology and immunology, pathology and laboratory medicine, and pediatrics, as the second director of the **Child Health Institute of New Jersey (CHINJ)**. He previously served as interim director of CHINJ, and deputy director of The Cancer Institute of New Jersey. "Dr. Rabson has the vision and the ability to develop the Child Health Institute of New Jersey into a preeminent center for biomedical research," says Dr. Amenta.

Dr. Rabson's research interests center around immune, infectious, and inflammatory disorders, leukemias, and lymphomas. As CHINJ director, he says, "I have a unique and exciting opportunity to build a highly interactive center of extraordinary quality, at the forefront of basic discovery and clinical application of research for the treatment and prevention of diseases, such as asthma, juvenile onset diabetes, childhood cancers, autism and metabolic and endocrine disorders."

"One of the Child Health Institute's

strongest initiatives is to serve as a catalyst for basic science and clinical activities in partnership with the Department of Pediatrics where more than 20,000 youngsters are treated annually,"



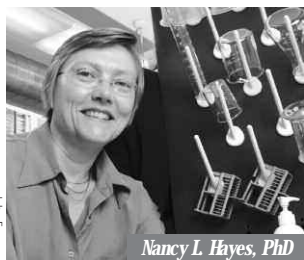
Arnold B. Rabson, MD

reports Dr. Rabson. "The Department of Pediatrics includes subspecialists who provide inpatient and outpatient treatment that did not exist previously in New Jersey for children with cancer, cardiac disease, cystic fibrosis, and other life-threatening illnesses, as well as for neurodevelopmental disorders. Furthermore, the relationship with the Bristol-Myers Squibb Children's Hospital at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital and the PSE&G Children's Specialized Hospital will enhance the clinical focus of the institute and the well-being of New Jersey's youngest residents."

**EDUCATION**

**Dr. Nancy Hayes Selected for Harvey Award**

**N**ancy L. Hayes, PhD, associate professor of neuroscience and cell biology and chair of the first year course directors committee, has been selected to receive the 2010 Professor Richard A. Harvey Excellence in



*Nancy L. Hayes, PhD*

Teaching Innovation Award. The annual award, which carries a stipend of \$3,500, recognizes the faculty member who has made the most innovative contributions to teaching during the past year.

In Dr. Hayes's case, these include significant advances in the existing Web-based system used in the neuroscience course, with the addition of tutorials and self-assessment modules that allow students to evaluate their understanding of the subject. In addition, Dr. Hayes created "selectives," which require students to pose a question, independently research the answer, and then evaluate the long-term importance of their findings.

Curriculum 2010 incorporates a number of Dr. Hayes's innovations, says **Siobhan A. Corbett, MD '87**, associate professor of surgery and chair, Curriculum Committee. "Not only is Nancy an excellent and exciting lecturer with incredible mastery of her subject, she turns students into active learners and critical thinkers. She demonstrates a dedication to teaching that is in the truest spirit of the award."

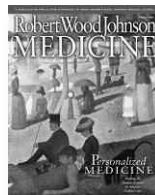
**Alumni Host Students at Happy Hour**

**T**he **Alumni Association** hosted Alumni/Student Happy Hour this spring. Held at Steakhouse 85 in New Brunswick, the highly popular event was attended by 126 guests. It provided students with an opportunity to meet alumni, chat informally with faculty members, and take a much-needed break from the rigorous mid-semester schedule.

"I am so grateful to our alumni for reaching out to students in this important way," says **Peter S. Amenta, MD, PhD**, dean. "There is no substitute for the perspective RWJMS graduates can provide to our students on the threshold of a career in medicine."

**KUDOS**

**"P**ersonalized Medicine," the Spring 2009 issue of **Robert Wood Johnson Medicine**, earned a gold Aster Award in the category "Magazine: Single Issue." The same issue received a bronze award in the "External Publications" category of the 27th Annual Healthcare Advertising Awards Competition.



**B**ruce G. Haffty, MD, professor and chair, Department of Radiation Oncology and associate director, CINJ, became president of the American Board of Radiology in May.

**R**obert DiPaola, MD, professor of medicine and director, The Cancer Institute of New Jersey (CINJ), was invited to present testimony on cancer research before the U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health.

**T**heodore A. Petti, MD, MPH, professor of psychiatry, received the Outstanding Mentor Award from the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry.

**J**ohn B. Kostis, MD, the John G. Detwiler Chair of Cardiology, professor and chair, Department of Medicine, and founding director of CVINJ, was recognized by the American Society of Hypertension as Fellow for excellence in research or clinical contributions.

**C**éline Gélinas, PhD, professor of biochemistry and associate dean for research, has been named a member of the new College of Scientific Reviewers of the National Institutes of Health. She has also been elected to fellowship in the American Academy of Microbiology.

**J**effrey P. Carpenter, MD, professor and chief, Department of Surgery, Camden campus, was senior author of "Contemporary Results of Endovascular Repair of Abdominal Aortic Aneurysms: Effect of Anatomical Fixation on Outcomes," published in the April 2010 *Journal of Endovascular Therapy*.

**P**atricia M. Hansen, MA, director, communications and public affairs, presented "Marketing on a Shoestring: Creative Approaches to Budget Reductions" at the Association of American Medical Colleges' (AAMC) Group on Institutional Advancement National Professional Development Conference in Tucson in April.

**M**asayori Inouye, PhD, professor of biochemistry, has been elected to fellowship in the American Academy of Microbiology.

**A** book review written by **Douglas Fraser, MD**, a resident in the Department of Surgery, of "The Coming Shortage of Surgeons," was published in *The Journal of the American Medical Association*.

**T**he Graduate School-New Brunswick of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey presented an Alumni/ae Award for Distinguished Accomplishments in Biological Sciences to **Karen Lin, MD '89**, associate professor of family medicine and community health.

**R**obert C. Like, MD, professor of family medicine and community health and director, Center for Health Families and Cultural Diversity, participated in "Families in Focus: Multi-cultural Medicine," a two-part interview on *Caucus New Jersey* with Steve Aduabato.

**T**heresa M. Miskimen, MD, associate professor of psychiatry, was elected president of the New Jersey Psychiatric Association.

**J**acqueline Williams-Phillips, MD, associate professor of pediatrics, was inducted into the American College of Critical Care Medicine.

**T**he following faculty members were named to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's new Science Advisory Board: **Paul Lioy, PhD**, professor of environmental and occupational medicine, **Robert Laumbach, MD '97, MPH**, assistant professor of environmental and occupational medicine, and **Michael Gallo, PhD**, adjunct professor of environmental and occupational medicine.

**B**rigitte Baumann, MD, associate professor of emergency medicine, was named a 2009 senior reviewer for *The Annals of Emergency Medicine*.



**Dean's Research Awards: Best of The Best**

**COMMUNITY HEALTH**

**HIPHOP 5K Event Helps Underserved**

A brisk April morning turned warm and bright for 180 participants — an all-time high — in this year's **HIPHOP Fun Walk/Run**. The annual event raised more than \$84,000 to support clinical care and programs the medically underserved. **St. John's Family Health Center** is the primary recipient of funds, which also assist HIPHOP programs such as **The Promise Clinic** and the **Community Health Initiative**. The **RWJMS Alumni Association** contributed \$2,500 to the event. "We couldn't do it without the help of our community," says HIPHOP Project Outreach Student Coordinator **Adriana Martin '12**, noting the support of event registrants and the generosity of sponsors, including area businesses.

**Take Me Out to Le Grand Cirque!**

A joyful day for pediatric patients in the **Robert Wood Johnson AIDS Program (RWJAP)** was ensured by medical students participating in the **Distinguished Service to the Community (DISC)** program. DISC students along with first-year students interested in applying for the program raised funds and accompanied the children on the **RWJMS Pediatric Interest Group-Project ALIVE** outing. The children enjoyed lunch courtesy of Chipotle Mexican Grill in New Brunswick and an afternoon at a performance by **Le Grand Cirque** at the State Theatre in New Brunswick. **Molly Nadelson '11** and **Ariana Trifono '11** initiated the project in 2008. Project ALIVE is a DISC project designed to increase medical students' understanding of children and youth living with chronic illnesses, while providing a venue that supports patients and increases their social skills and life skills.

On May 12, **Peter S. Amenta, MD, PhD**, dean, recognized leading scientists in the RWJMS community for their achievements in research. The morning-long event, held on the Piscataway campus, featured

- **Norman H. Edelman Clinical Science Mentoring Award: Bruce Haffty, MD**, professor and chair, Department of Radiation Oncology

**Governor's Council Awards Nearly \$1M for Autism Studies**

The New Jersey Governor's Council for Medical Research and Treatment of Autism awarded a \$469,636 grant to a team led by **Michael Lewis, PhD**, University Distinguished Professor of Pediatrics and Psychiatry, for a study titled, "Self Representation and Brain Development in Autism." The council awarded \$469,550 to **Harvey Weiss, PhD**, professor of physiology and biophysics, for his study titled, "Autism and Control of Cerebral Metabolism."

two open poster sessions in the Great Hall. Keynote speaker **Sally L. Hodder, MD**, professor and vice chair, Department of Medicine, UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School, spoke on "Current Issues in the U.S. HIV Epidemic."

**The 2009 Dean's Research and Mentoring Awards were presented in the following categories:**

- **Best Publication by a Graduate Student: Yvette Pittman, PhD**
- **Best Publication by a Graduate Student: Daria Gaykalova, PhD**
- **Best Publication by a Postdoctoral Fellow: Manjula Pandey, PhD**
- **Best Publication by Faculty, Basic Sciences: Shengkan Victor Jin, PhD**, associate professor of pharmacology
- **Best Publication by an MD/PhD Student: Peter Mazari**
- **Best Publication by a Resident: Amar Rewari, MD**
- **Best Publication by Faculty, Clinical Sciences: M. Maral Mouradian, MD**, William Dow Lovett Professor of Neurology
- **R. Walter Schlesinger Basic Science Mentoring Award: Aaron Shatkin, PhD**, professor of molecular genetics, microbiology and immunology and director, Center for Advanced Biotechnology and Medicine

**CINJ Researchers Report Recent Findings**

**Elliot J. Coups, PhD**, associate professor of medicine, a behavioral scientist at **The Cancer Institute of New Jersey**, was lead author of a



The Photographer

recent study on screening rates for skin cancer, the most common of all cancers. The study focused on screening among middle-aged and older Caucasian adults, a group with an increasing mortality rate for melanoma. Dr. Coups and his colleagues found that, among people over 50, those who did not finish high school or have not recently had screenings for other common cancers are also less likely to be screened for skin cancer of all cancers. The findings were published in the online edition of the *American Journal of Medicine* 123(5).

In their latest research on the role of genetics in cancer, a group led by **Kim M. Hirshfield, MD '99, PhD**, assistant professor of medicine, studied the tumor-suppressor gene TSC1. The group evaluat-



Agathe Klotz/2011

ed blood samples from more than 1,000 women for the presence of genetic changes in the DNA sequence of the gene. Their findings show that while the presence of a specific DNA change does not affect the age at which breast cancer is diagnosed in young patients, it does appear to delay disease onset in postmenopausal women. They note the presence of this genetic change likely makes TSC1 more sensitive to the effects of low amounts of estrogens found in women who are postmenopausal and confers a protective benefit by reducing the amount of cell growth.