

February 2009

Dear Alumni, Faculty, Students, Staff, and Supporters:

Economic challenges notwithstanding, Temple University School of Medicine is moving forward with great enthusiasm. Our educational and clinical programs are gaining excellent momentum, our research enterprise is continuing to grow, and our ongoing commitment to education and patient care remains strong. Please allow me to bring you up to date.

Construction on our new building is proceeding on time and on budget. As depicted in the photograph on the following page, now substantially complete, the building will be ready to welcome the Class of 2013 in August 2009. Moves to the new facility will soon be underway for the Admissions Office, the Library, the Institute for Clinical Simulation and Patient Safety, Gross Anatomy, and the offices of Medical Education, Student Affairs, Graduate Medical Education, and Academic Affiliations. **We will celebrate the opening of the new building with various events on October 29 through 31, 2009.** Please save these dates and watch the mail for additional information. Also, please keep in mind that while I am proud of the progress of our fund raising for the building to date, we still need your help.

On the academic front, several established ventures are continuing to develop, and many new initiatives are taking shape. We have created a new teaching academy, the **Temple Institute for Medical Education (TIME)**. Its mission is to promote teaching excellence through educational innovation and scholarship, to recognize and reward faculty for excellence in teaching, and to build the next generation of educators. A number of medical schools throughout the U.S. are developing academies like TIME, and many belong to the Association of American Medical College's Consortium of Teaching Academies. During an era when faculty are under increasing pressure to boost their contributions to clinical practice and/or research, teaching academies help to re-emphasize the importance of teaching and learning to the academic enterprise.

We are also creating a **Center for Medical Humanities and Urban Bioethics**, a resource for students and faculty exploring medicine's many ties to literature, philosophy, ethics, history and religion as well as to the social sciences (such as anthropology, cultural studies, psychology, and sociology), and the arts (literature, theater, film, and visual arts). While the medical school will serve as home base for this evolving initiative, it will connect with numerous schools, colleges, and centers throughout the University given the many disciplines involved. We will keep you posted as this exciting new venture takes shape.

The School of Medicine's educational portfolio continues to expand. We now offer a non-degree-granting **Pre-Medical Post-Baccalaureate Program** for students interested in medicine who were non-science majors or who need additional preparation prior to applying to medical school. Two tracks are available: The Basic Core, a 32-credit program, and an Advanced Core, a 21-credit program. Both provide mentoring opportunities and MCAT preparation. Qualified matriculants are offered conditional acceptance to TUSM. In addition, we also launched a new **Master's Degree Program in Clinical Research and Translational Medicine** in conjunction with Temple's College of Health Professions. This program trains scientists to create and manage fundable, interdisciplinary research projects that move basic discovery toward clinical application.

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The network-wide resources of Temple and its clinical and educational affiliates, both in Pennsylvania and abroad, are nothing short of a dean's dream come true, offering vast, varied potential for student and faculty exchange, experience, and engagement. In addition, the resources right here at Temple University Hospital continue to grow. We recently received approval from the Pennsylvania Department of Health to initiate a **liver transplant program**. This means that Temple is now one of only two academic medical centers in Philadelphia to offer comprehensive, multi-disciplinary transplantation services for all solid organs –including heart, lung, liver, kidney, and pancreas. (And we also provide comprehensive bone-marrow transplantation services). In addition, Temple now belongs to the **National Paired Kidney Donation Network**, a national consortium of 50 transplant centers that evaluates “pairs” of clinically incompatible transplant candidates and potential donors with other incompatible pairs, increasing chances of finding matches. Temple has also established a number of other new services, including a **new program in geriatrics** that, in addition to helping to accommodate Temple's burgeoning senior patient population, will offer medical students a better educational foundation in working with seniors.

Increasingly, Temple's clinical programs are receiving the high recognition they are due. For instance, 12 Temple programs were recently named “Centers of Excellence” by *Philadelphia* magazine (bariatric surgery, burn center, digestive disease center, hand surgery, heart center, lung center, neurosciences center, orthopaedics and sports medicine, psychiatry and behavioral health, sleep disorders, and trauma). More than 50 Temple faculty are listed in the most recent *Best Doctors in America*®; and numerous programs are receiving high ratings by regional and national peer and consumer ratings groups. For example, the Temple Lung Center ranks as one of the nation's top hospitals for respiratory disorders in *U.S. News & World Report*. Our Neuroscience Center ranks fifth in the nation for NIH funding), and our Center for Obesity Research and Education is internationally renowned, as is our Center for Substance Abuse Research, among others.

In addition, Temple has joined forces with Philadelphia-based Fox Chase Cancer Center and Geisinger Health System (Danville, PA) to form the **Keystone Institute for Translational Medicine (KITM)**. Its mission is to conduct translational research focused on the genetic and social causes of disease that disproportionately affect urban and rural Pennsylvanians (primarily lung disease, diabetes, hypertension, obesity and specific cancers). To this end, KITM is pursuing a place within the NIH's Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) consortium, a national network of medical research institutions. The NIH has awarded CTSA grants to 38 academic health centers in 23 states and will ultimately increase the total to 60. These grants help institutions create the infrastructure to train the next generation of translational scientists (basic and clinical) to translate research discoveries into future therapies/drugs, medical devices, and preventive medicine strategies for the future. During the past several years, we have made great progress in developing our research infrastructure with key services and facilities that are available to researchers in all fields, such as our biostatistics, flow cytometry, histology and proteomics technical centers. Last fall we submitted a 1,200-page CTSA application to NIH. With its \$20 million budget request, this application is the largest NIH grant application that Temple University has ever submitted. If awarded, it will have a transformative impact on our research and training programs. We will keep you posted.

Now a few notes about people. **Edmond Notebaert** has joined the administrative leadership of Temple University in the newly created role of Senior Executive Vice President of Health Sciences, reporting to University President Ann Weaver Hart. Mr. Notebaert is responsible for the overall strategic leadership and direction of Temple's healthcare enterprise, providing for a more unified and integrated organization that will move forward with a shared vision and strategy. **Calvin Johnson, MD, MPH**, who recently completed his service as Secretary of Health for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, has been appointed Vice President and Chief Medical Officer for Temple University Health System. He has been Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at Temple since 1999. **Gerald Sterling, PhD**, has been named Senior Associate Dean for Education. A faculty member since 1990, Dr. Sterling has been Associate Dean for Education since 2001. Three alumni have been named to leadership posts on the Dean's Staff: **Elizabeth Drum, MD'86**, has been named Associate Dean for Faculty Development. **Lawrence Kaplan, MD'86**, has been named Assistant Dean for Clinical Education; and **Darilyn Moyer, MD'85**, has been named Assistant Dean for Graduate Medical Education.

Our alumni, faculty and students continue to impress us. **Roopa Dhatt of the Class of 2010** was selected as one of just 10 medical students worldwide to take part in the international conference in Kazakhstan celebrating the 30th anniversary of the signing of the Alma-Ata Declaration on primary health care last fall. Alumni and affiliate faculty members **Vance Moss, MD'98, and Vince Moss, MD 98, were named ABC News People of the Year (2008)** for their amazing volunteer medical service in Afghanistan. Alumnus and emeritus faculty member **Alfred Bove, MD'65, PhD'70**, is now President of the American College of Cardiology. Alumnus **Robert Folberg, MD'75**, has been named Dean of a new medical school, Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine, which will open in Michigan in 2010. Temple people are leading health education, service, and research ventures everywhere.

There's much to look forward to as we continue to grow. As always, I am grateful for your partnership and support. Please keep in touch.



Sincerely,

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School of Medicine

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Dean's Update