UCLA Hospital System Appoints New Senior Managers

UCLA Hospital System recently appointed three new associate vice chancellors to its senior management team.

David L. Callender, M.D., M.B.A., was chosen as associate vice chancellor, UCLA Hospital System, and director, UCLA Medical Center. He previously served as executive vice president and chief operating officer at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center.

Tom Sibert, M.D., M.B.A., was selected as associate vice chancellor for the UCLA Faculty Practice Group. He previously served as executive vice president of clinical services for University of North Carolina (UNC) Health Care and medical director and chief operating officer for UNC Physicians & Associates.

Mitchell Creem, M.H.A., was appointed as associate vice chancellor and chief financial officer for UCLA Medical Sciences. He previously served as chief financial officer at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, a Harvard teaching-hospital affiliate.

“I am delighted that we were able to successfully recruit three outstanding individuals to lead these critical areas of our academic research, education, and patient care.”

David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA remains the world’s leader in patient care and education because the university is the only Southern California hospital to earn a spot on the magazine’s “honor roll” rankings during the 15 years the publication has conducted the survey. The honor roll recognizes hospitals that demonstrate excellence across many specialties.

UCLA Medical Center Awarded Top Accreditation for Patient Care

UCLA Medical Center earned a Gold Seal of Approval from the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organization (JCAHO) for demonstrating compliance with its national standards for health care quality and safety.

Following a five-day onsite visit in May 2004, JCAHO concluded that UCLA met all criteria for providing quality health care and made no recommendations for improvement. Only 17 percent of hospitals received accreditation at this top level in 2003.

“We’re proud to have received this accreditation from such a demanding organization,” says Dr. Gerald S. Levey, vice chancellor, UCLA Medical Sciences, and dean of the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. “It’s due to the hard work of our exemplary staff and their dedication to providing the highest quality care for our patients.”

Mattel Children’s Hospital at UCLA Opens New Center for Children with Genetic Diseases

Mattel Children’s Hospital at UCLA opened a new center June 28, 2004, to help children with life-threatening genetic diseases. The Jeffrey Modell Diagnostic Center for Primary Immunodeficiencies (PI) will diagnose and treat pediatric patients with PI, an umbrella term for more than 100 genetic defects that compromise the immune system. Often misdiagnosed as common childhood illnesses, PI affects an estimated one in 500 Americans.

The center is sponsored by ZLB Behring and the Jeffrey Modell Foundation, which was founded in memory of Jeffrey Modell by his parents Fred and Vicki after he died from PI. Dr. Talal Chatila, division chief of pediatrics, immunology, allergy and rheumatology, directs the center.

UCLA Designated Center of Excellence by Huntington’s Disease Society of America

The Department of Neurology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA has been designated a regional Center of Excellence by the Huntington’s Disease Society of America (HDSA). UCLA was one of four universities across the nation competitively awarded the prestigious designation this year.

The designation includes $50,000 a year in funding to help support a multidisciplinary team of health care professionals with expertise in Huntington’s disease. The group provides comprehensive medical and social services, as well as education, outreach and research opportunities to the Huntington’s disease community.

Usually striking in mid-life, Huntington’s disease is an inherited degenerative disorder that robs patients of the ability to think, control their emotions and perform coordinated tasks. Each child of an affected parent has a 50 percent risk for inheriting the disease. No effective treatment or cure exists for the fatal illness, which affects 30,000 Americans and places another 200,000 at risk.

Dr. Susan Perlman, clinical professor of neurology, directs the HDSA Center of Excellence at UCLA, which offers a weekly Huntington’s Disease Clinic, a clinical trials site, and a full spectrum of services for individuals and families affected by the disorder. For more information, see www.huntington-study-group.org/.
Neufeld Steps Down as Department Chair with Big Plans for Her Future

By Elaine Schmidt

Twenty years of leadership as chair of UCLA’s Department of Biological Chemistry would appear a crowning achievement to most careers—particularly when it caps off a 21-year tenure at the National Institutes of Health. But Elizabeth Neufeld, Ph.D., has no intention of resting on her laurels.

“I plan to devote the next several years to my research,” says Neufeld, 76. “I haven’t had the chance to proceed as fast as I’d like, and I have definite goals for the future.”

The children’s faces pictured in her office reflect the urgency behind Neufeld’s drive. Posters, news clippings and plaques describe the young lives made possible by her research on a group of inherited diseases called mucopolysaccharidoses (MPS), which include Hurler and Sanfilippo syndromes.

MPS affects lysosomes, the cell’s “recycling plants” that use enzymes to break down leftover molecules for reuse. If a lysosome has a missing or defective enzyme, the undigested material accumulates, leading to misshapen cells and enlarged organs. The progressive MPS disorders often lead to neurological deterioration, abnormality of the bone structure, mental retardation and childhood death.

Neufeld’s research at NIH identified the enzyme deficiencies that cause MPS. Her findings led to tests that enabled physicians to accurately diagnose the syndromes and counsel families, and paved the way for enzyme replacement therapy.

Leonard Rome, Ph.D., senior associate dean for research at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, vividly recalls his formative years as a postdoctoral researcher in Neufeld’s lab at NIH in the late 1970s.

“We worked elbow-to-elbow with Liz in a crowded lab,” describes Rome. “The atmosphere was so charged and stimulating that we never wanted to leave for fear we might miss the next big finding. We were driven by Liz’s brilliant insights and instincts for helping us interpret often puzzling results. It was a very exciting time.”

The findings from Neufeld’s laboratory also laid the foundation for enzyme-replacement therapies, a breakthrough that has allowed many MPS children to live longer, more normal lives.

Dr. Emil Kakkis, who received his Ph.D. from the Department of Biological Chemistry, later worked in Neufeld’s UCLA lab as a medical genetics fellow, where he produced recombinant enzyme for the treatment of Hurler syndrome.

“Liz Neufeld was the scientists’ chairman,” Kakkis says. “She took care of new department recruits and set the pace for transforming a department that was in need of renovation to the high rank it holds today.”

Now a senior vice president at BioMarin Pharmaceutical, Kakkis built on his work with Neufeld to bring the therapeutic enzyme for Hurler’s syndrome to clinical testing and approval by the Food and Drug Administration in 1983.

“That was the ‘Big Event,’” recalls Neufeld. “My lab had conducted the basic science for the drug and proposed the treatment in the late 1960s. Emil led the clinical testing on the enzyme and made it into a pharmaceutical drug. I’m very happy about that.”

With characteristic determination, however, Neufeld always has her eye on the next research challenge.

“The enzyme used in MPS therapy isn’t able to penetrate the blood-brain barrier,” she explains. “As a result, current replacement therapy cannot help children with Sanfilippo syndrome, which leads to profound mental retardation. I’m working with Dr. Betty Chen in my lab to address this. We believe that our findings will apply to other neurological diseases.”

Neufeld’s contributions have earned her many of the highest honors in science, including the 1994 National Medal of Science, the 1990 California Scientist of the Year Award, the 1988 Wolf Prize in Medicine and the 1982 Albert Lasker Clinical Medical Research Award. She is an elected member of the National Academy of Science, the American Academy of Arts and Science and the Institute of Medicine.

“There are few scientists that have trained their enthusiasm and focus on a rare disease for so long,” notes Kakkis. “Liz’s career is all the more compelling because her work resulted in new therapies for patients with MPS disorders.”

Despite her prestigious accolades and rare talents, Neufeld is quick to deflect attention from herself and aim the spotlight at those around her.

“The exciting aspect of my job has been the opportunity to watch young scientists grow,” she says. “I’m most proud of recruiting some wonderful faculty. Biological Chemistry has been a fertile ground for cultivating senior leaders, such as associate deans and center directors like Lenny Rome and Judy Gasson. Our department has contributed a remarkable share of scientific leadership to the medical school.”

Neufeld is a modest and down-to-earth person. It doesn’t occur to her that these faculty members are following her leadership example. She’s too busy thinking about where she’ll take her research next.
Dr. Lawrence W. Bassett, and Dr. Jonathan S. Berek received the 2004 Sherman M. Mellinkoff Faculty Award. Considered the School of Medicine’s highest honor, the award celebrates an ongoing commitment to patients and medical education. Bassett is the Iris Cantor Professor of Breast Imaging and professor of radiological sciences. Berek is professor and chair of the College of Applied Anatomy, executive vice chair of obstetrics and gynecology, chief of gynecologic oncology and gynecology service and director, UCLA Women’s Reproductive Cancer Program.

Sally Blower, Ph.D., professor of biomathematics and a researcher at the UCLA AIDS Institute and UCLA Neuropsychiatric Institute, was appointed to a 12-person committee for the Institute of Medicine to study the potential impact of antiretroviral drugs in developing countries. The committee released its report on July 7, 2004.

Thomas J. Coates, Ph.D., professor of infectious diseases and an executive committee member of the UCLA AIDS Institute, received the Award for Distinguished Contributions to Research in Public Policy from the American Psychological Association. The award recognizes a psychologist who made an outstanding contribution to public policy research through a single extraordinary achievement or a lifetime of work.

Dr. Gregg C. Fonarow, Elliot Corday Chair in Cardiovascular Medicine and Science and professor of cardiology, received the 2004 Award of Meritorious Achievement from the American Heart Association (AHA) for his formative and continuing work with a national AHA program called Get With the Guidelines™—a new standard for cardiac care that effectively improves treatment for patients hospitalized with coronary artery disease.

Dr. Sanjiv (Sam) Gambhir, adjunct professor of molecular and medical pharmacology, received the 2004 Award for Distinguished Basic Scientist at the Academy of Molecular Imaging’s Annual Conference. The award recognizes outstanding achievement for developing new approaches for molecular imaging with optical and micro-computed tomography techniques.

Dr. Patricia Ganz, professor of health services in the School of Public Health and professor of medicine (hematology/oncology) in the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and director of the Division of Cancer Prevention and Control Research at UCLA’s Jonsson Cancer Center, was honored by the UCLA Alumni Association for outstanding professional achievement. Ganz is a pioneer in the areas of quality of life for cancer survivors, quality of care for cancer patients, and cancer prevention.

Dr. Donald Jenden, emeritus professor in the Department of Molecular and Medical Pharmacology and former department chair, was honored for 50 years of service to UCLA. He is internationally recognized for his research on the neurotransmitter acetylcholine, which helped further understanding of the development of neurological diseases and toxicity of pesticides.

Dr. Thomas Kitzner, professor of pediatrics and chief of the Division of Pediatric Cardiology, has been appointed to serve on the 13-member L.A. Care Health Plan’s Board of Governors. The L.A. Care Health Plan is a local public agency and nonprofit health plan serving more than 750,000 residents of Los Angeles County.

Dr. George Sachs, Wilshire Chair of Medicine and professor of medicine and physiology, received a prestigious 2004 International Award from the Toronto-based Gairdner Foundation, which recognizes top researchers whose work has illuminated understanding of cellular function, reduced disease, and enhanced quality of human life. Sachs’s research has led to clinical therapies for peptic ulcer disease, gastroesophageal reflux disease, esophageal cancer, and gastric cancer.

Dr. Daniel Silverman, assistant professor of molecular and medical pharmacology, received an award for the top clinical abstract presented during the Academy of Molecular Imaging’s 2004 Annual programs, was presented with the 2004 Medical Honoree Award at Camp del Corazon’s Gala del Sol event, which recognizes individuals who focus their work on pediatric cardiology and/or congenital heart disease. Laks has provided ongoing support of the children’s camp and has performed heart surgery for many of the patients attending the camp.

Shaleen Metten, Ph.D., associate professor of pathology and laboratory medicine, received the 2004 Award for Excellence in Education from the Kaiser Foundation. Metten was honored for planning new curriculum that integrates histology and anatomy.

Dr. Hillel Laks, professor and chief of cardiothoracic surgery and director of the Heart, Lung and Heart-Lung Transplant Programs, was presented with the 2004 Medical Honoree Award at Camp del Corazon’s Gala del Sol event, which recognizes individuals who focus their work on pediatric cardiology and/or congenital heart disease. Laks has provided ongoing support of the children’s camp and has performed heart surgery for many of the patients attending the camp.
Conference. His abstract compared the effectiveness of various tracers injected into patients to help identify and highlight brain tumors during positron emission tomography scans.

Dr. Dennis Slamon, professor of medicine, chief of hematology and oncology and director of Clinical/Translational Research at UCLA's Jonsson Cancer Center, received the American Cancer Society's highest honor bestowed on scientists. The Medal of Honor for clinical research recognizes his development of Herceptin, a molecularly targeted breast cancer therapy.

Dr. John Tormey, vice chair of medical education and professor of physiology, received the 2004 Award for Excellence in Education from the Kaiser Foundation. Tormey was recognized for overseeing the development of a new curriculum for medical students.

Ernest Wright, Ph.D., professor of physiology and Mellinkoff Professor in Medicine, was named a 2004 fellow of the Biophysical Society for his demonstrated excellence in science and commitment to the field of biophysics. Wright identified a new protein that senses changes in glucose, the blood sugar that fuels body function. Wright also received the 2004 Janssen Award in Gastroenterology for lifetime achievement in the digestive sciences.

Gail E. Wyatt, Ph.D., an associate director at the UCLA AIDS Institute and professor of psychiatry and biobehavioral sciences at the UCLA Neuropsychiatric Institute, was honored as a 2004 Woman of the Year by the Los Angeles County Commission for Women. The award recognizes women who have championed women's issues to bring about social and economic change, served as outstanding role models, and achieved exceptional success within their professions advocating women's rights.

Dr. Lonnie Zeltzer, professor of pediatrics, anesthesiology, and psychiatry and biobehavioral sciences and director of the Pediatric Pain Program, was selected for an inaugural Mayday Pain & Society Fellowship. The three-year program, established by the Mayday Fund, will train leaders in the pain management field to advocate key issues, such as the under-treatment of pain and pediatric pain.

Grants

UCLA researchers have received $1.5 million from the W.M. Keck Foundation to create a new interdisciplinary program that will use nanotechnology to understand the origin of the majority of solid tumor cancers. Dr. Leonard Rome, senior associate dean for research at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, is the principal investigator.

The UCLA Stroke Center received $5 million from the National Institutes of Health to establish a Specialized Program of Translational Research in Acute Stroke (SPOTRIAS) to promote rapid diagnosis and effective new treatments for stroke. UCLA Stroke Center researchers include Dr. Jeffrey L. Saver, Dr. Sidney Starkman, Dr. Reza Jahan, Dr. Chelsea Kidwell, Dr. Neil Martin, and Dr. Paul Vespa.

UCLA received $1.7 million from the National Institute on Aging for the UCLA Alzheimer's Disease Research Center (ADRC). The center helps further understand the mechanisms and optimize the treatment of Alzheimer's disease and is comprised of five cores: administrative, clinical, pathology, education/information transfer, and imaging and genetics. The principal investigator is Dr. Jeffrey Cummings, director of the ADRC.

Amgen has awarded UCLA researchers $903,210 to fund a clinical trial of chemotherapy plus or minus ABX-EGF for advanced non-small cell lung cancer. ABX-EGF is a fully humanized monoclonal antibody to epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR). Despite advances in chemotherapy, the prognosis for patients with this cancer remains poor. Dr. Diane Prager, an associate professor of hematology/oncology, is the principal investigator.

The National Institutes of Health awarded the Los Angeles Pediatric AIDS Clinical Trial Unit $3 million for continued support of the project. Dr. Yvonne Bryson, chief of infectious diseases, professor of pediatrics, and a member of the UCLA AIDS Institute, is the principal investigator.

In Memoriam

Dr. Edward I. Hoffman, professor of molecular and medical pharmacology and radiological sciences, died July 1, 2004. Hoffman was known for his leadership and achieved international recognition and numerous awards in the field of medical imaging. His early research in medical imaging helped create the positron emission tomography (PET) scanner.

Dr. Samuel Kaplan, professor emeritus of pediatrics, died January 21, 2004. He was one of the first to establish pediatric cardiology as a medical specialty and was instrumental in developing the membrane oxygenator that is still an essential part of the surgical procedure for open-heart surgery.

Dr. Baldwin Gaylord Lamson, professor emeritus of pathology and laboratory medicine, died July 2, 2004. The first director of hospitals and clinics at UCLA, Lamson oversaw a period of rapid growth at UCLA Medical Center, which nearly doubled in size under his leadership from 1966 to 1980.

Dr. Arthur J. Moss, professor emeritus of pediatrics, died July 14, 2004. An international authority on pediatric hypertension, he studied cardiovascular changes and pulmonary artery pressure in newborns. His book, Heart Disease in Infants, Children and Adolescents, has become the standard text in pediatric cardiology.

Dr. Roy Walford, professor emeritus of pathology and laboratory medicine, died April 27, 2004. A pioneer of the calorie-restriction movement for longevity, Walford was the physician at Biosphere 2.
On May 5, 2004, the UCLA/Orthopaedic Hospital Center for Cerebral Palsy (CCP) hosted a cocktail reception in a private, rooftop setting provided by Mr. Nick Mitsakos. Dr. Gerald A.M. Finerman, chair of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery; Dr. James V. Luck, president, chief executive officer, and medical director of Orthopaedic Hospital; Dr. William Oppenheim, chief of the Division of Pediatrics and director of CCP; and Dr. Eileen Fowler, director of education and research for CCP, gave presentations. Coach John Wooden conversed with guests, posed for photographs, and gave an inspirational talk. Ms. Patty Civalleri, founder and president of 1-Take MultiMedia, contributed a video on the CCP. Cafe Formosa in Hollywood donated wines, and Hendel and Eric Schwartz provided goody-bags.

In Chicago on May 13, 2004, four dedicated volunteers – Judy Kruger, Janet McCann, Nina Vanderpoel, and Terri Weinstein – welcomed 900 guests to CIRQUE!, a multi-sensory evening of entertainment, food, and celebration to benefit the UCLA AIDS Institute. The co-chairs are part of a group of designers and artists who have mobilized their collective creativity to finance AIDS vaccine research in support of their mission to eradicate HIV globally. CIRQUE! raised more than $100,000 for UCLA’s efforts.

On May 25, 2004, the Friends of NPI presented a program at the UCLA Fowler Museum of Cultural History to benefit the UCLA Neuropsychiatric Institute. Featured speakers were Kay Redfield Jamison, Ph.D., professor of psychiatry at Johns Hopkins University, and Peter Whybrow, M.D., director of the NPI and executive chair and professor, Department of Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences at UCLA. The program was presented in association with the NPI’s Tennenbaum Family Creativity Initiative. As Friends of NPI, community leaders, donors, grateful patients, and families support and promote the Institute's clinical, research, and educational missions.

Held at the Beverly Hilton on June 5, 2004, the UCLA Center on Aging’s ICON Award event, sponsored by Janssen Pharmaceutica Products, L.P., raised $320,000 to support research on aging. Guests paid tribute to Gail and Gerald Oppenheimer, this year’s ICON Award recipients, who exemplify the Center’s motto of “Living Better Longer,” serve as outstanding role models of successful aging, and continue to make exceptional contributions to society.

On December 2, 2004, a private screening of “The Aviator,” a film about Howard Hughes, was held at Hollywood’s Egyptian Theatre to benefit UCLA’s Neuropsychiatric Institute. Prior to the show, director Martin Scorsese, star Leonardo DiCaprio, and actress Terry Moore (Mr. Hughes’s widow) participated with Drs. Peter Whybrow and Jeffrey Schwartz of the NPI in a panel discussion on obsessive-compulsive disorder. Dr. Schwartz served as Mr. DiCaprio’s expert advisor to master the role of the late billionaire, who suffered from this condition.
Gifts

Terry S. Semel, chairman and CEO of Yahoo! Inc., and Jane Bovingdon Semel, founder of iane inc., have pledged $25 million to endow the UCLA Neuropsychiatric Institute. The gift will support research and community education programs for the treatment and understanding of such illnesses as autism, mood disorders, addiction, and Alzheimer’s disease. In recognition of such a significant contribution, the facility will be named the Jane and Terry Semel Institute of Neuroscience and Human Behavior at UCLA, under the direction of Dr. Peter Wyltbrow. Terry Semel was president and co-CEO of Warner Brothers until 1999. Jane Semel is a member of the School of Medicine’s Board of Visitors, Revlon UCLA Advisory Board, and External Advisory Committee in the UCLA Center for Human Nutrition. She will chair the Institute’s Board of Community Counselors. Mrs. Semel created FaceTheIssue.com, a series of highly acclaimed animated public service announcements that addressed a number of emotional and physical issues that affect young adults.

The Fu-Hsing and Jyu-Yuan Chen Family Foundation has made a generous pledge of $5 million to benefit Parkinson’s disease investigations in the Department of Neurology. UCLA will name the Fu-Hsing and Jyu-Yuan Chen Center for Translational Research in Parkinson’s Disease in recognition of this gift.

A gift of more than $2.4 million from the Louise T. Lucio Estate will provide unrestricted moneys for medical research, education, and other priority programs at the School of Medicine.

Wendy and Theo Kolokotrones, loyal supporters of the Jules Stein Eye Institute since 1994, have funded the Kolokotrones Chair in Ophthalmology with a $1-million gift. This endowment will underwrite the teaching and research of an internationally acclaimed cataract surgeon and scientist, thus advancing this field. Cataract is the most common blinding condition in the world, and corrective surgery is the only treatment option.

A $500,000 distribution from the Anna H. Bing Living Trust has created the Bing Scholarship Fund for Medical Students. This endowment will provide annual scholarships in perpetuity.

The future home of Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center is the grateful recipient of a $250,000 gift from the Maurice Amado Foundation, a long-time UCLA supporter. In recognition, the first floor west elevator lobby nearest the entrance to Mattel Children’s Hospital at UCLA will be named the Maurice Amado Foundation Elevator Lobby.

Steadfast friend and supporter, Mrs. Lena Longo has contributed $250,000 to the UCLA/Orthopaedic Hospital Center for Cerebral Palsy to establish the Lena Longo Endowment for Cerebral Palsy Research. This endowed fund will help support cutting-edge basic science and clinical research to benefit adult and pediatric patients with cerebral palsy and related movement disorders.

Recently, Mrs. Denalee and Dr. Milton Steinbein and family made a generous gift to name the first floor east elevator lobby in the future home of Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center. As a retired physician and wife of a physician, Dr. and Mrs. Steinbein realize the importance of having a state-of-the-art medical center in the community.

UCLA has received a generous bequest from the estate of Mr. Hoosmand Missaghieh. In honor of this bequest, the Cardiac Imaging Unit, to be located on the Second Floor of the future home of Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, will be named for Mr. Missaghieh.

“I wanted to give back to UCLA because they gave my mom the gift of life,” says Joshua Goldberg, who donated $2,000 of his bar mitzvah money in April to the UCLA Renal Transplant Research and Education Fund in the Division of Nephrology.

In Memoriam

Genevieve S. May, M.D., a beloved and dedicated friend of the UCLA Neuropsychiatric Institute (NPI), passed away on February 28, 2004, at Mays’ Landing. It was in this small, private, peaceful setting that Dr. May and her husband Philip R. A. May, M.D., thrived, both in their professional pursuits and in their life together. Philip served as the clinical director of the NPI from 1962 to 1970, when he became director and then chief of staff of the West Los Angeles Veterans Administration Hospital. Following her husband’s death in 1986, Dr. May announced her intent to bequeath Mays’ Landing to the NPI for use as a study center. Since then, she has opened her doors to UCLA faculty, staff, and students for meetings, retreats, and study sessions. The Philip and Genevieve May Psychiatric Endowment Fund was established at UCLA for the financial support and maintenance of Mays’ Landing.

Carlo Mariotti passed away on August 5, 2004, in Rome, following a 14-year battle with various cancers. He was a stone artisan whose Italian travertine can be found on The Getty Center, Walt Disney Concert Hall, Lincoln Center, the Bank of China, the Spanish Steps in Rome, and many other grand places worldwide. As a grateful UCLA patient, Mr. Mariotti, the “Marble Man,” offered more than three-million pounds of travertine at a great discount for the future home of Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center. He is survived by his wife, four children, and seven grandchildren.

Pauline and Harold Price were dedicated supporters of the Jules Stein Eye Institute for more than 30 years. They passed away on April 19 and January 27, 2004, respectively. Through the Louis and Harold Price Foundation, established in 1951 by Harold and his father, the Prices created an endowed fellowship and endowed chair, as well as the Price Retina Research Fund. Louis Price’s bakery and ice cream supply business (Joe Lowe Corporation) was famous for the promotion of the Popsicle.
The Alumni Class Campaign for Student Scholarships

To build upon the 50th Anniversary Campaign for Student Scholarships, which raised more than $1.5 million, the UCLA MAA launched the Alumni Class Campaign for Student Scholarships. One of the aims of the MAA is to offset the tremendous cost of a medical education for needy students, many of whom face debts of $100,000 or more at graduation. Sufficient funding assistance to meet each medical student's financial need will keep his/her debt at a minimal and manageable level, and keep career paths open.

The Alumni Class Campaign encourages reunion classes to establish individual class scholarships to create permanently endowed funds. By reducing financial burdens, alumni can make a real difference in the lives of outstanding and deserving UCLA medical students. Many generous gifts already have been received, and many classes are working toward this goal.

NEW SENIOR CLASS TRADITION:
The newest aspect of the Alumni Class Campaign is the commitment of seniors to support scholarships. The Class of 2003 started this tradition, which will provide scholarships for future medical students at UCLA. Benjamin Cowan, M.D. ’75, MAA Board President, helped initiate the Senior Class Endowment program introduced by Dean Gerald S. Levey. The Class of 2003 Medical Student Scholarship Fund was established on Match Day 2003 with an initial goal of $1,000; through matching gifts, it has grown significantly.

The Class of 2004 aimed for $1,800, and at the 2004 Senior Class Breakfast proudly announced that it had raised $2,200 for the Class of 2004 Medical Student Scholarship Fund. Drs. Barbara and Gerald Levey, Dr. Neil Parker, and Dr. Cowan made matching gifts, and Dr. Livia Solti-Bohman also contributed to this fund. “If we can do that every year with each graduating class,” says Dr. Cowan, “the growth of these initial endowments will be quite dramatic over time, providing more funds for scholarships.”
Conference on Career Choices

On January 8, 2005, the Medical Alumni Association (MAA) once again hosted its most enduring event, the Conference on Career Choices in Medicine. This annual gathering provides UCLA, King/Drew Medical Center, and UC Riverside students with an opportunity to meet alumni from a broad range of medical specialties and related subspecialties, from Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, Surgery, and Diagnostic Imaging to Ophthalmology, Obstetrics/Gynecology, and Neurology.

MAA conference Chair James Tipton, M.D. ’80, welcomed participants, and students attended three one-hour successive workshop sessions of their choosing. Round-table discussions with the panelists during lunch enabled students to learn about additional specialties. The half-day event ended with a drawing for prizes, thanks to the generosity of local merchants.

If you would like to participate on a panel at the 2006 Conference, please contact Connie Firestone in the MAA Office at (310) 267-1845. All alumni, faculty members, and community physicians are welcome and appreciated.

Reunion 2004

The 2004 reunion was a great success, with more than 220 alumni and spouses who returned to campus for a tremendous weekend of R&R (Recreation & Reminiscing) with their medical school classmates. A casual all-classes reception took place at the Luxe-Summit Hotel. Many alumni and their families also enjoyed a campus walking tour and preview of the future home of Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center or a trip to the Getty Center. The class dinners were held at the UCLA Faculty Center on Saturday night. Brunch at the Santa Monica Pier on Sunday morning capped off a truly memorable weekend.


SAVE THE DATE: April 8-10, 2005

You are a lifetime member of the UCLA Medical Alumni Association (MAA) if you are a School of Medicine M.D. or Ph.D. graduate, past intern or resident, faculty member, or emeritus faculty member.