Communique
Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine
Fall 1999

Our Research Mission
Discovering the Future of Clinical Care

http://www.com.msui.edu
Dean’s Column

A person who learns just enough to make money enough to live on and gives no further attention to mental researches, drifts to a condition of satisfaction with doing today what he did yesterday. He is easy and his mind dreads to study; his body takes command of all his mental energies; he goes no farther and finally stops at the place that he should rush his mind to the greatest activity.
—Andrew Taylor Still, September 1898

It’s ironic that the osteopathic profession, born out of Andrew Taylor Still’s commitment to find new medical practices that were more effective than those of his time, has, over the last century demurred from the challenges of research.

The profession was launched well into the age when scientific methods of observation and data collection were known; it’s been, for example, almost 400 years since Sir Francis Bacon published Novum Organum. We’ve readily recognized the benefits of research, quickly incorporating those diagnostic tools and methods of treatment that are scientifically proven to help our patients.

We’ve been busy, it’s true — creating a system of patient care that is unparalleled in its compassion, its responsiveness to human need, and its scope of practice — utilizing comprehensive tools that are not available to other health practitioners.

But the time has come to build on our clinical credibility to develop the scientific credibility the profession deserves, both by making contributions to the larger body of medical knowledge and by researching those practices that are unique to the osteopathic profession.

For example, is osteopathic manipulative medicine as effective as we claim? Can all practitioners get the same results with the same procedures? What are the precise physiological responses to particular techniques? How efficacious is it in asthma, in heart disease, in chronic obstructive pulmonary disease?

The university administration, the Michigan Osteopathic Medicine Advisory Board, and our own faculty are urging MSUCOM to take a leadership role in osteopathic research. It’s time to heed that call, so I’ve identified research and other scholarly activity as the highest priorities for our college.

In this issue of COMMUNIQUE you’ll find our plan, devised by Associate Dean for Research J. Justin McCormick, for taking research forward. You’ll find our exemplars. You’ll find out what our alumni and community faculty are doing. And you’ll find places where you will be able to participate in the quest for new knowledge to help us all. Join us!

Allen W. Jacobs, DO, PhD
Dean
FEATURES

The MSUCOM Research Vision ........................................... 4
Justin McCormick, PhD, associate dean for research, turns decades of experience to the challenge of enhancing research within the osteopathic profession, beginning at MSUCOM.

Research Programs of Excellence ................................. 6
At a glance: Five programs of excellence at MSUCOM.

Hands-On Clinic ............................................................. 10
First- and second-year osteopathic students establish a successful Student Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine Clinic treating MSUCOM faculty, staff, students and their families and friends.

CONTENTS

Departments

Student Life ........................................................................... 10
Staff Matters ......................................................................... 11
Michigan Osteopathic Association ..................................... 12
Development .......................................................................... 14
Alumni in Action .................................................................. 15
Calendar of Events ............................................................. 19

ON THE COVER
How does MSUCOM plan to enhance osteopathic research? For details on the MSUCOM Research Plan, turn to the cover story on page 5.

MSUCOM appreciates the generous and continuing support for COMMUNIQUÉ offered through the Michigan Osteopathic College Foundation. Thank you!
Research Vision

A Blueprint for Leadership

Justin McCormick? He knows a bit about science and what it takes to make it work.

Beginning in 1976 with Dr. Veronica M. Maher, he built MSUCOM’s Carcinogenesis Laboratory from the ground up. They quickly gained reputations as world-class scientists, reaping grants, publishing in the best journals, globe-trotting to give presentations, reviewing the work of their peers, and attracting large numbers of postdoctoral research associates and students. In 1992, Maher and McCormick were recognized as University Distinguished Professors – MSU’s highest academic honor.

In his role as associate dean for research, McCormick is turning those decades of experience to the challenge of enhancing research within the osteopathic profession, beginning at MSUCOM. The man has a plan.

“A high priority is to develop studies in those aspects that distinguish osteopathic medicine from allopathic medicine,” McCormick said. “We’re proposing a research institute that will allow us to understand osteopathic manipulative techniques in comprehensive ways.”

The plan calls for the recruitment of highly skilled faculty researchers to organize two sections of the institute – one will be devoted to clinical efficacy/outcomes research and the other to study of the basic mechanisms that underlie osteopathic manipulative techniques. The person chosen to lead the basic mechanisms studies will hold the Walter F. Patenge Endowed Chair in Osteopathic Medicine.

As McCormick envisions it, the institute will include a wide variety of faculty – physicians, biomedical scientists, engineers, biopsychosocial scientists and others from the College of Osteopathic Medicine as well as the other colleges of MSU. Clinical efficacy and outcomes research will incorporate the physicians and institutions in MSUCOM’s Statewide Campus System.

But McCormick is highly sensitive to the fact that osteopathic medicine is far more than manipulative medicine, and is among the first to promote participation in the broad scope of biomedical research.

Among his top priorities are to support and broaden five areas of research excellence that already exist in the college (see page 6-7) – carcinogenesis, clinical neuroscience and ophthalmology, international health, the college’s flagship DO/PhD educational program, and severe malaria in African children.

“Because of its strong historical emphasis on clinical care, the osteopathic profession hasn’t become significantly involved in research,” McCormick notes. “We have to change an entire culture to be successful.”

To address this issue, McCormick has been active in implementing a number of programs – seed grants for pilot research studies, educational programs for faculty who want to enhance their research skills, skilled research mentors to work one-on-one with faculty, an expert external panel to assist in planning and evaluation, a grants specialist to help with proposals, a new pharmaceutical trials program, and more.

“The time is right for this,” McCormick said. “A number of opportunities are coming together to make these efforts successful. We need to position ourselves to take best advantage of them.”
The Carcinogenesis Laboratory

- Leadership: Veronica M. Maher, PhD, and J. Justin McCormick, PhD, university distinguished professors, Department of Microbiology and Department of Biochemistry
- Research focus: The mechanisms by which normal human cells become cancer cells so that strategies can be developed to interrupt or thwart the process
- Highlights: Established in 1976, the lab has attracted 60 visiting scientists and postdoctoral research associates, served as a training ground for 40 PhD students (ten of whom are currently enrolled), and has had 150 undergraduate students participate in research. Maher and McCormick have attracted $17 million in extramural funding for their work, and serve as consultants, on review boards, on editorial boards of journals, and as organizers of symposia. McCormick serves as MSUCOM's associate dean for research, Maher as MSUCOM's associate dean for graduate studies and director of the Medical Scientist Training Program (see page 7).

The Center for Clinical Neuroscience and Ophthalmology

- Leadership: David Kaufman, DO, professor of clinical neuroscience and ophthalmology within the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
- Research foci: Clinical studies in areas such as stroke, multiple sclerosis, and neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's; participates in National Eye Institute's multi-center studies in optic neuritis, cancer therapy effects on the visual system and anterior ischemic optic neuropathy
- Highlights: Under continuous funding from the National Institutes of Health since 1988, clinical scientists have participated in the publication of numerous articles, including those in the New England Journal of Medicine and JAMA on topics as varied as optic neuritis and MS, strokes to the optic nerve, and the risks of Tamoxifen (an anti-breast cancer medication) to the eye. A recent grant from the MSU Foundation and the National Institute on Aging will allow expanded research into areas such as glaucoma, innervation of arteries and veins, Alzheimer's disease and the neurobiology of osteopathic medicine. The center is responsible for the largest multidisciplinary subspecialty neurology clinic in central Michigan. The center also has developed the MSUCOM-OPTI residency consortium programs in neurology (17 residents) and ophthalmology (10 residents). There is also an active neuro-ophthalmology fellowship program, and interactive TV educational programs that allow real-time statewide collaboration with eight sites.
Medical Scientist Training Program

- Leadership: Veronica M. Maher, PhD, university distinguished professor, Department of Microbiology and Department of Biochemistry

- Research focus: Students simultaneously studying for the DO and PhD degrees have carried out research with a wide variety of faculty research mentors in biochemistry, microbiology, genetics, pharmacology and toxicology, carcinogenesis, and cell and molecular biology.

- Highlights: The first DO/PhD training program in the world, the Medical Scientist Training Program was begun in 1980 by Philipp Gerhardt, then associate dean for research and graduate studies at MSUCOM. To obtain the two degrees, this demanding program requires a minimum of seven years of study, including basic science, medical courses, graduate studies, dissertation research and clinical clerkships. Twenty students have completed the program and are now working as faculty in medical schools at major research universities or on the staff of major medical centers with strong research programs.

Institute of International Health

- Leadership: Evangelos Petropoulos, MD, PhD, director, and professor, Department of Physiology

- Research foci: Multidisciplinary research on health issues faced by other nations, but also relevant to MSU and the USA, such as environmental health, biomedical informatics development, the causes and management of diseases such as endemic nephropathy, cardiovascular disease, and schistosomiasis.

- Highlights: With funding from organizations such as the National Institutes of Health, the Open Society Institute, NATO, USAID and the World Bank, IIH conducts a variety of training and research programs. Recent efforts have included the Minority International Research Training Program, which involved 91 students and 13 faculty in collaborative biomedical research in 19 institutions in 13 overseas countries in the last five years, and has been renewed for five more years. For example, MSU faculty have provided extensive training in environmental health and carried out collaborative research projects in molecular genetics, hematology and environmentally and occupationally caused diseases with Bulgarian physicians and scientists. In another case, ten Balkan scientists received short-term laboratory research training at MSU. The Institute also coordinates the medical informatics program with Dr. Terrie Taylor (below), and has coordinated for five years an annual summer training workshop on manual medicine at MSUCOM for 25-35 students from the Medical Trainer College of Tokyo.

Severe Malaria in African Children

- Leadership: Terrie Taylor, DO, associate professor, Department of Internal Medicine

- Research foci: The mechanisms and treatment of cerebral malaria among children in Malawi, Africa

- Highlights: Working six months in Malawi and six months on the MSU campus each year, Taylor has almost single-handedly earned an international reputation for the excellence of her work in tropical medicine. Operating in facilities which often lack even reliable electrical and water service, Taylor has nonetheless been awarded several major grants from the National Institutes of Health. Together with Ned Walker (MSU Department of Entomology) and colleagues at the University of Michigan, she secured support from the Fogarty International Center to provide postgraduate training for graduates of the new University of Malawi College of Medicine. In collaboration with the Institute of International Health (see above) and faculty from Johns Hopkins University, Dr. Taylor is involved in another Fogarty-funded initiative to establish a medical informatics system within the new medical school in Malawi. She recently was named "Researcher of the Year" by the American College of Osteopathic Internists.
Basic Sciences

Below are listed the MSUCOM faculty who received extramural grant awards of $100,000 or more during Fiscal Year 1998-99. A full listing of extramural funding will be posted at http://www.com.msu.edu/pub-rel/research/funding98.html

James Bennett, Pharmacology & Toxicology
- Resistance to Praziquantel: An Emerging Problem, NIH
- Ion Channels in S. mansoni: Muscle Fibers, NIH

Vence Bonham, Osteopathic Surgical Specialties (40% COM)
- African American Male Health Study, NIH
- African American Women's Health, NIH
- The Study of Health Care Attitudes, MDCH

John Breznak, Microbiology
- Physiological Role and Phylogenetic Diversity of Termite Gut Symbiosis, NSF

Jerry Dodgson, Microbiology (20% COM)
- Expression of Soluble Receptor and Envelope Proteins as Antiviral Strategy, Mayo Foundation
- Retroviral Vectors for Expressing Gene in Vivo, Frederick Cancer Research Facility

Gregory Fink, Pharmacology & Toxicology
- Neural Control of Fluid Homeostasis in Hypertension, NIH

Michele Fluck, Microbiology
- Middle T/Mt-RE Control of Polymavirus DNA Replication, NIH

Pamela Fraker, Biochemistry (20% COM)
- Dietary Zinc - Its Effects on the Immune Response, NIH
- Immunotherapeutic Enhancement of the Repair of Host Defense Systems of the Nutritionally Deprived Mouse, Allen Foundation

Jay Goodman, Pharmacology & Toxicology
- Threshold Mechanisms in Environmental Toxicology, NIH

Roger Haut
- Blunt Knee Injuries Causing a Post-traumatic Osteoarthritis, Centers for Disease Control
- Footwear Biomechanics, Wolverine World Wide

Steven Heidemann, Physiology
- Role of Mechanical Tension in Central Neurogenesis, NSF

Rawle Hollingsworth, Biochemistry
- Dimensional Polymers from Starch Lactose, Michigan Biotechnology Institute
- Research on Chiral Chemicals from Carbohydrates, Synthion Corporation
- Role of Membrane and Surface Carbohydrates of Rhizobium in Symbiosis, DOE

Margaret Jones, Pathology (30% COM)
- Caprine Beta-Mannosidosis in Uterine Stem Cell Therapy, NIH

David Kaufman, Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation
- Glycine Antagonist in Neuroprotection Americas Trial, Columbia Presbyterian
- Fosphenytoin Acute Ischemic Stroke Study Protocol, Warner Lambert Pharmaceutical
- Ischemic Optic Neuropathy Decompression Trial, NIH

Donna Koslowsky, Microbiology
- Mitochondrial RNA Editing in Trypanosoma brucei, NIH
- GRNA/MRNA Interactions During Editing in Trypanosoma brucei, NSF

David Kreulen, Physiology
- Specificity of the Innervation of Arteries and Veins, NIH

Veronica Maher, Biochemistry, Microbiology
- Human Homologs of Yeast REV Genes: Role in Mutagenesis, NIH
- Cloning and Characterizing the UP Variant Murator Gene(s), NIH

Laura McCabe, Physiology
- Oncogenic Control of Osteoblast Phenotype Development, Arthritis Foundation
- Mechanisms of Diabetes-Associated Osteoporosis, American Diabetes Association
- Microgravity Regulation of Oncogene Expression and Osteoblast Differentiation, Osteoporosis Foundation

J. Justin McCormick, Biochemistry, Microbiology
- Cloning Genes Involved in Cell Immortalization, NIH

W. Glenn McGregor, Microbiology
- Mechanisms of Mutagenic Processing of DNA Damage, NIH

Ronald Patterson, Microbiology (40% COM)
- Analysis of Galexins as Splicing Factors, NSF

Herbert Reynolds, Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine
- Ergonomic Study of Truck Seating, GMC
- The Initial Position and Postural Attitudes of Driver-Occupants, GMC
- Principles and Practices for Math-based Design Tool and Technology Use, GMC

William Smith, Biochemistry (25% COM)
- Oxygen Utilizing Membrane Heme Proteins, NIH
- Prostaglandin Synthesis in Kidney Collecting Tubules, NIH

Terrie Taylor, Internal Medicine
- Clinicopathological Correlates of Cerebral Malaria, NIH

John Wang, Biochemistry
- Carbohydrate Binding Protein 35, NIH

Stephanie Watts, Pharmacology & Toxicology
- 5-HT and MEK Interaction in Control of Vascular Tone and Pressure, NIH
- Mechanisms of Augmented Growth Factor Stimulated Vascular Contractility in Hypertension, American Heart Association

John E. Wilson, Biochemistry (15% COM)
- Hexokinase and Energy Metabolism in the Brain, NIH
Does osteopathic manipulative medicine work? If so, how and why?
These are the top research questions being answered by faculty members in
the Department of Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine. According to Raymond
Hruby, DO, past chairperson, the level of research in OMM has increased over
the last five years, especially in these areas. "These two important areas of
research are driven by physicians and other health care providers who want to
know how we know it works well, and insurance companies who look for research
showing it works better than other treatments and is more cost effective," he said.

Research activities include:

- Herbert (Mac) Reynolds, PhD, has received major funding from General
  Motors since 1991 in his study of driver posture to improve automobile seating.
  Dr. Reynolds has developed a computer-based model to design seats for GM
  that are comfortable to the occupant, good for postural support, and do not
  cause somatic dysfunction.

- Funded by a grant from the American Osteopathic Association, Sherman
  Gorbis, DO, member of the Department of Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine,
  and OMM residents are gathering data regarding the use of osteopathic
  manipulative treatment on hip replacement surgery patients.

- Ann Auburn, DO, and Fred Mitchell Jr., DO, a retired MSUCOM faculty
  member, are investigating the inter-rater reliability of standing flexion tests.
  Dr. Auburn, Philip Greenman, DO, and Lisa Vredevoogd, DO, have also gathered
  data about the inter-rater reliability of motion tests for the lumbar spine.

- Dr. Hruby is working with Gary DiStefano, DDS, a dentist in Howell, on a pilot
  study of patients with temporomandibular joint disorder. They are comparing
  the common TMJ treatment alone to this treatment plus osteopathic manipulation.

- David Grimshaw, DO, and Raymond Brodeur, PhD, submitted a proposal
  this fall to do a study of palpation findings in subjects before and after exercise-
  induced muscle soreness compared to objective findings of spinal stiffness. This
  is a validation study for osteopathic physical exam procedures.

- With funding from the Michigan Osteopathic College Foundation, the
  department has also reestablished the OMM Fellows Program, which funds one
  third-year student each year to remain on campus as a research/teaching fellow.
  This year’s fellow, Robert Farhat, will gain OMM experience in clinical,
  teaching, and research settings.

Faculty in the MSUCOM Statewide
Campus System, SCS, are hoping to up the
ante in medical education by adding research to
the osteopathic educational experience.
"We continue to strive to raise the bar in
medical education," explained Jon Rohrer, PhD,
interim executive director for the Consortium
for Osteopathic Graduate Medical Education
and Training and a specialist in SCS. "One of
the next steps in improving medical education
is to focus on research."

Currently, COGMENT sponsors research
days for senior residents in orthopedic surgery
and obstetrics and gynecology. These residents
must present a poster or research presentation
to meet basic requirements of their disciplinary
colleges.

SCS also sponsored a two-day seminar on
research for residents. The program featured
research design and statistical analysis pre-
sented by a nationally renowned statistician.

To meet the need for building a critical mass
of physician researchers, however, Rohrer said
SCS is developing a larger support structure.
"Our next step is getting more residents to
present research and publish research in their
own disciplinary journals, the American Osteopathic Association and other
academic medical journals."

In addition, SCS wants to identify physician
researchers, and link them with residents
interested in doing research.
"There are pockets of physicians doing
research in the communities, but we’ve not fully
identified them. Our desire is that COGMENT
become a clearinghouse for information in SCS
for who’s doing research," Rohrer explained.
"We would then link these people with residents
who need research mentors."
If you place your hand on your opposite arm, what do you feel? Think about the surface first. A little hair, some smooth or rough skin, warmth? Pressing down a little harder, can you feel the muscles? Now run your hand down your arm and feel the direction these muscles run. Go deeper and you can feel the bone.

Teaching and developing this “power of touch” is one of the basic principles of osteopathic manipulative medicine, called palpation. Developing the ability to do palpation is an art, and like all art, it takes time and practice.

Third-year student Robert Balbis understood this, which is why he established a student-run osteopathic manipulation clinic last year, giving MSUCOM first- and second-year students the opportunity to work on real patients with real problems.

“Through working with patients in the clinic we become confident enough to perform osteopathic manipulative medicine in the hospitals during our third and fourth years. We can say, ‘I know this. It’s not just that I want to do it, but I know it. I learned it at the clinic,’” Balbis said.

The patients are the faculty, students and staff at MSUCOM, and their family and friends. After hearing the initial complaint, the students complete a thorough structural examination, and then present the case to a supervising physician preceptor. The students discuss an osteopathic manipulative medicine treatment plan, and work with the physician to carry it out. They also give the patients handouts demonstrating stretches and exercises they should do to help ease their conditions.
"Second-year students have seen patients with their preceptors, but not in such a slow, supervised, low-pressure environment conducive to learning," notes Jason Heisler, a second-year student and co-coordinator of the clinic.

"It is an awesome experience for the students and the supervising physicians. The physicians are always impressed with the students’ skills and their ways of handling patients," Lisa Vredevoogd, DO, physician adviser, said. "And I always hear faculty members and past students saying, 'I wish it was available to me when I was a student.'"

"An osteopathic clinic like this will help seed the attitude and the skills early, and increase our use of OMM."

The clinic began its third semester of operation at the beginning of October, with co-coordinators Jason Heisler and RaShawn Venerable, both MSUCOM Class of 2002. They invite you to visit the clinic, which will be open every Wednesday from 5 to 7:30 p.m. It is located in the D200 wing of Fee Hall. MSUCOM faculty, students, staff and their families can make an appointment by calling 432-4931 or by email at Student-OMM-Clinic@com.msu.edu

The Center for Clinical Neuroscience and Ophthalmology has a secret ingredient in its recipe for successful patient interactions. Her name is Chris Huttenlocker, a clinical coordinator with dedication and an ability to make people feel welcome.

Huttenlocker was nominated by the entire unit for the MSUCOM Staff Excellence Award which she received June 18.

"Chris is the face and voice of our center for all the patients and other visitors that come here. She has the remarkable ability to calm the most concerned patient while at the same time getting any request of the faculty or staff accomplished," said the unit members who nominated her. "Her attitude is infectious and perhaps the most valuable thing about her."

With all that, Huttenlocker was still surprised to receive the award. "I was shocked. I didn't even realize they were talking about me!" she said. "I really do enjoy working here. It's a nice feeling, helping people out, and it's interesting to learn about the different neurologic and ophthalmologic diseases and procedures. Also, I always try to give 110 percent."

Huttenlocker started her career at MSU in the College of Human Medicine about 15 years ago. She transferred to Neuroscience and Ophthalmology about eight years ago. "Working in medicine has given me a better view of life and how precious it is," she said.
During the past several months you have received requests from Michigan State University’s College of Osteopathic Medicine to support the state budget for higher education and MSU. As you know, for the first time the governor’s budget recommendations included the establishment of a long-term mechanism to narrow existing funding disparities among the state’s universities. I am very pleased to report that the final appropriations bill signed by the governor on June 30 does include similar guidelines, and represents the most positive state budget for MSU in more than a generation.

It is very clear that we could not have accomplished this task without the help of alumni and friends like the osteopathic community. Hundreds of osteopathic supporters of Michigan State University wrote, phoned, e-mailed and visited their legislators expressing their support for the work that MSU is doing to control tuition and costs, while continuing to improve the quality of the educational experience. The message was clear — MSU must be treated fairly in the appropriation process — and the legislature responded.

Beginning this year, universities will be divided into five tiers for funding purposes. Each tier will have a minimum funding level per student, or “funding floor.” This is an essential step in closing the funding “gap” that exists, and correcting long-standing funding inequities.

There was one other very important item in the appropriations bill that will have significance for individuals and the state for years to come. The state appropriated fifty million dollars for a Life Sciences Corridor that will include MSU, the University of Michigan, Wayne State University and the VanAndel Institute in Grand Rapids. These funds, which will come from the tobacco settlement, will be used to fund joint research projects with an emphasis on addressing critical health and aging issues.

These monies will not go to the institutions automatically, but will be available only through a competitive process, the idea is to fund only the best science and work for long term collaboration. The state’s universities and institutions will draw on their complementing strengths. We are very excited about the possibilities this initiative offers to solve important problems, and to grow new industries in Michigan.

Thank you for your help. The strong support of all of our osteopathic friends and college alumni, who are valued members of their communities, demonstrated in a very tangible way that MSU makes a difference in the lives of the citizens of Michigan. Your support and help were invaluable.

M. Peter McPherson
President, Michigan State University
Welcoming New Support for Osteopathic Research

by Dennis Paradis

Research continues to be the proverbial building block for the evolution of science and medicine. Its impact on osteopathic medicine reminds us of the importance of contributing to research efforts through funding and professional support. At this time, the osteopathic profession is stepping up its own efforts to devote more of its resources toward research initiatives.

Throughout this century, the research of DOs has made a significant impact on health care. Many of these physicians, educators, residents and interns, as well as students, have contributed through various independent research facilities, hospitals and our own Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Recently, the Michigan Osteopathic College Foundation has joined MSUCOM in its efforts to advance medical research. After contributing over $1 million over the years to MSUCOM for various projects, such as the Kobiljak Center and student scholarships, the foundation has agreed to contribute $50,000 to the college to encourage research.

While the college has various research projects under development, a majority of this funding will be used to develop additional sources of funding for research. While the cliché is old, it is often true, "it takes money to make money." MOCF's contribution will play an important role in allowing MSUCOM to tap the multitude of funding resources that have yet to be discovered.

In the last few months, another significant research opportunity has also presented itself in the initial plans to develop a "research corridor" for life sciences. Michigan has a goal to become the leader in life sciences research in the United States. The first step in achieving this goal is creating a partnership among Michigan State University, the University of Michigan, Wayne State University, and the Van Andel Institute in Grand Rapids.

The birth of this partnership occurred through a bill signed by Gov. John Engler which creates and provides funding for the effort to combine the research and technology of these four influential institutions. One billion dollars in funding over the next 20 years will be provided to life sciences research through the Michigan Health and Aging Research Initiative administered by the Economic Development Corporation. The funding is provided from a percentage of the money obtained from the $8.1 billion tobacco settlement not utilized by the Michigan Merit Scholarship Program.

As an intricate part of Michigan State University, the College of Osteopathic Medicine will play an important role in Michigan's research initiatives. At this time, the scope of this role is undefined. One thing is certain. Research is critical to the advancement of medicine, and the osteopathic profession must give its full support.

Lisa Vredevoogd, DO, representing MSUCOM's Michigan Osteopathic Research Network, accepts the Andy Award from Gerald Breton, DO, Michigan Osteopathic Association president-elect, at the MOA Annual Convention this May. MORNET researchers include Martin Hogan, PhD, Dr. Vredevoogd, William Johnston, DO, David Grimshaw, DO, Mark Notman, PhD, and John Greene, DO. They received the highest research honor given by MOA for their project, which included training 23 clinical investigators and performing a pilot study on the osteopathic management of persons with head and neck pain.
Discovering New Options for Breast Cancer Treatment

by Dawn Wondro

With perseverance and determination, Silvana Martino, DO, Class of ’73, has become a nationally-recognized oncologist specializing in breast cancer treatment and research.

After graduating from MSUCOM, Dr. Martino spent nearly 20 years in the Division of Hematology and Oncology at Wayne State University School of Medicine, treating patients, teaching students, and carrying out research on cancer treatments. She now is an oncologist with the John Wayne Cancer Institute in Santa Monica, Calif., and chairperson of the Breast Cancer Committee of the Southwest Oncology Group, a large cooperative research group funded by the National Cancer Institute.

In the past, Dr. Martino’s research has added to the evidence that brought oncologists the new drug Taxol. Current research includes trials on the drug Taxotere, the drug Herceptin, bone marrow transplants following high-dose chemotherapy, and an investigation on a class of drugs that prevent cancer from damaging patients’ bones.

“The research question is always the same: Do you cure more women this way or that way?” she explained. “This is an important question, and the answers change the practice of oncology national- and worldwide.”

“Research allows us to constantly practice better medicine,” she explained. “If your goal is to make changes in medicine at the national level, you must do research.”

Martino also holds strong convictions about patient care, and a “human approach” which osteopathic medicine emphasizes. “There are ways to make the pain and the suffering easier to bear. We are taught to use our hands, to make a diagnosis and to heal and comfort. Many times there are no worthwhile treatments, but there’s still you.”

A word of...

THANKS

As the new president of the MSUCOM Alumni Association Board of Directors, I am excited to be a link between the college and its outstanding alumni for the next year. In case you are wondering, I am a member of the Class of 1980, interned at Chicago Osteopathic Hospital and then completed my residency in general surgery at Metropolitan Hospital. I have been practicing in East Lansing ever since. My wife Mary Hunt, DO, Class of 1988, and I are the proud parents of two daughters, Anne, a junior at East Lansing High School and Jenny, who is in the fourth grade. In addition to serving on the MSUCOM Alumni Association Board of Directors for three years, I also teach in the Department of Osteopathic Surgical Specialties each fall.

Since my time spent as a student at MSUCOM, the college has made many changes and grown considerably, and Dr. Al Jacobs has moved from anatomy professor to dean. Things change. As you can see in this issue of Communiqué, through exciting research our colleagues are also changing the future of medicine. With Governor Engler’s signature recently appropriating $30 million dollars for health related research in Michigan, I am sure these articles highlight only the first of many discoveries to come from MSUCOM as we enter the 21st century.

Sincerely,

Dan Hunt
President, MSUCOM Alumni Association
OLD FRIENDS, NEW MEMORIES

Silverfest Alumni Weekend

by K. Friday

It was a good day to be a Spartan. Not only did MSU’s nationally-ranked football team dominate Iowa 49-3 in front of a packed Homecoming crowd, but MSUCOM alumni returned to East Lansing for this year’s Silverfest celebration. Honoring the silver anniversary of the Class of 1974, the twentieth anniversary of the Class of 1979, and the tenth anniversary of the Class of 1989, Silverfest weekend featured two days of exciting activities that allowed alumni, faculty, friends of the college, socialize, and renew old

benefiting MSUCOM student loan funds, educational improvements, and the MSUCOM Alumni Association. A team from the Department of Radiology took first place out of a field of 80. That evening, approximately 180 guests gathered at the University Club for a formal reception and dinner dance in honor of the classes of 1974, 1979, and 1989. On Saturday morning, CME hosted their “Fall Kaleidoscope” conference for primary care physicians. Four MSUCOM alumni - Anthony Ognjan, DO, John Tower, DO; and Peter Walsh, DO gave presentations at MSU’s Kellogg Center. By about 10:00 a.m., the Silverfest tailgate had begun, and soon swelled to more than 300. The good food and fun attracted MSU President M. Peter McPherson, who stopped by to say hello. After the food and drinks, it was off to Spartan Stadium and an impressive victory over Iowa. Quarterback Bill Burke threw for four touchdowns and Plaxico Burress caught three passes for scores. It was a good day to be a Spartan.

Gary L. Hills, DO;

Friends of MSUCOM
Anne Schulze, Pat and Dick Salters

Alumni Gerald Stopczynski, Barry Dehlin, Owen Pickus, and Ken Stringer
Coming Home

New Development Officer Returns to MSU

by Dawn Wondro

As an undergraduate at Michigan State University, Barbara Ball-McClure enjoyed being a student worker. She has returned, with quite a promotion. Say "hello" to the new Director of Development for the MSU College of Osteopathic Medicine.

"MSU has always been part of my life," said Ball-McClure, an East Lansing native whose parents still live in the area. "It's home to me, and it's good to be home."

Ball-McClure officially began her position as development officer at MSUCOM on Sept. 7. She replaced Dee Telman, who joined University Development as a planned giving officer. "I look forward to building on the foundation established by Dee and the dean," Ball-McClure said.

A former middle school physical education teacher and high school coach, Ball-McClure should have no problem keeping energy high and team commitment strong. She enjoys working with physicians and the health care industry, and looks forward to matching up the interests of donors or alumni with the needs of the college.

"I hope to work with Dean Jacobs and the faculty and staff of the college to build more student scholarships, in addition to helping to increase funding to programs that will benefit not only the students but the college as a whole," she said.

She has a proven track record, with experience in the political, academic and health care professions. Her previous positions include director of development at Sinai Hospital of Detroit and director of advancement for McPherson Hospital in Howell. Most recently, Ball-McClure was director of development for the Eastern Michigan University Foundation, College of Arts and Sciences and Learning Resources and Technologies.

"I like matching up the interests of donors with the needs of the institution," she explained. "It helps the donors feel good about what they are doing, and it also has a positive impact on the institution."
Yes, I want to help...

...MSUCOM meets health care needs through excellence and innovation in medical education

I would like information on:

- Presidents Club (cumulative gifts of $10,000-24,999)
- Beaumont Tower Society (cumulative gifts of $25,000-49,999)
- Planned Giving Opportunities
- Scholarship Opportunities
- College Publications

Gift Form

Name ___________________________ Class of 19 ______
Address __________________________
City __________________ State ______ Zip ______
Home phone __________ Office phone __________
Fax __________________ E-mail __________________

Please use my gift/pledge of $ _________ for:

- Areas of greatest need
- Student support
- Statewide Campus System
- Technology
- Renovation and refurbishment
- Endowment building

My employer will match my gift? □ yes □ no
Employer's Name __________________
(please include matching gift form)

Enclosed is my first payment:

□ Check (Make checks payable to: MSU College of Osteopathic Medicine)
□ Visa or □ Mastercard
Card number ______________________ Exp. Date ______
Signature ______________________ Date ______

Send reminders: □ Annually □ Semi-annually □ Quarterly

Tribute Gifts

If this is a tribute gift, please specify the person and whether it is in memory of or in honor of:

____________________________________

The college will notify the family or person for whom you make a tribute gift. Gift amounts are held in confidence.

Please notify __________________________
Address __________________________
City __________________ State ______ Zip ______
Home phone __________ Office phone __________

Thank you for your thoughtful generosity. Please use enclosed envelope. For more information, please call the College of Osteopathic Medicine Development Office at (517) 355-8355.
by K. Friday

At MSU's Wharton Center, August 27, MSUCOM's entering class of 1999 was formally issued the challenge of leadership.

In a Pasant Theater packed with beaming relatives, dapper children, and college well-wishers, MSUCOM officials welcomed the 123 osteopathic students who are new to the college this year—praising their educational successes, but alerting them to the challenges that lie ahead.

After a welcome by Dean Allen Jacobs, MSU Provost Lou Anna Simon reminded the class that the profession was a combination of "being, knowing, and doing" and not simply an amassing of knowledge. According to Provost Simon, as students of the "preeminent college of osteopathic medicine," MSUCOM's entering class should concentrate on applying their skills and working for the good of the community.

Describing the very real rigors of being a medical student, Student Council President Michelle Bens offered what was surely the most humorous presentation of the afternoon. Ms. Bens read excerpts from her journal, which detailed the hectic and often stressful challenges of learning to study and managing increasingly rare free time. For example, Bens explained how during the course of the school year she and her family conducted their relationship entirely over an answering machine.

After Dr. Dan Hunt, president of MSUCOM's Alumni Association, welcomed the class of 1999 and urged them to become active members of the alumni community, Dean Emeritus Myron S. Magen delivered his convocation address on the challenges of true leadership.

As the charter dean of MSUCOM and a key figure in the college's development, Dean Magen could speak with authority about the importance of the profession, the trials of leadership, and the necessity of perseverance. Looking off to his right to the incoming class, Magen told his audience, "You will have the opportunity, if you so desire, to take part and play an active role in the debates that will shape the health care system in the coming millennium."

However, medical students shouldn't rest on their laurels, because, Magen emphasized, "For leadership to occur, there must be motivation. No matter how great the talent, talent without motivation is inert and of little use to anyone." Quoting a motto from the British Air Force, Dean Magen put it as simply as he could: "Whoever dares, wins."

As if to give the new class a glimpse of their future as potential leaders, the convocation address was followed by a formal recognition of the Walter F. Patenge Medal of Public Service recipients: Thomas Earl Graddy, DO, Gerson I. Cooper, and Eugene A. Oliveri, DO, FACOI, FACG. These individuals were honored for their achievements in education, public service, and medicine, and they represent the demonstrated commitment to community service that is expected from future leaders in the medical profession.

For a full text version of both Ms. Bens' and Dean Magen's speeches, along with the citations of Patenge Medalists, see http://www.com.msu/pub-rel/convocation
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Research Guest Series presentation. Terrie Taylor: &quot;Severe Malaria in African Children: Clinical Features and Pathogenesis.&quot; E105 Fee Hall. 12:00-1:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8-12</td>
<td>&quot;Principles of Manual Medicine.&quot; Kellogg Center, East Lansing. 40 hours Category 1A credit. Tuition is $1250, $900 for residents. Call CME, (517)353-9714 or (800)437-0001.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-19</td>
<td>&quot;Craniosacral Technique: Level I.&quot; Windmill Inn, Tucson, AZ. 40 hours Category 1A credit. Tuition is $1250, $900 for residents. Prerequisites. Call CME, (517)353-9714 or (800)437-0001.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>MSUCOM Prom/Semiformal. 6:00 p.m., University Club, Lansing. Sponsored by MSUCOM Student Council. Open to students, staff, faculty, and community DOs. Contact Michelle Bens at <a href="mailto:bensmich@pilot.msu.edu">bensmich@pilot.msu.edu</a> for more information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>&quot;Tri-City (Bay City, Midland, Saginaw) Primary Care Update.&quot; 7 hours Category 1A credit. Tuition $100. Call CME, (517)353-9714 or (800)437-0001.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Vegas Night! Hawk Hollow Golf Club in Bath. A fundraiser for the MSUCOM Student Council. Open to all members of the MSUCOM community. Contact Michelle Bens at <a href="mailto:bensmich@pilot.msu.edu">bensmich@pilot.msu.edu</a> for more information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Michigan Osteopathic College Foundation Ball: 6:00 p.m., cocktails; 8:00 p.m., dinner. Detroit Athletic Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22-23</td>
<td>Silverfest Alumni Weekend! A celebration of the 25th anniversary of the class of 1975 as well as reunions for the classes of 1980 and 1990. Includes Osteopathic Golf Open, dinner/dance, CME program, tailgate and MSU football!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For a complete listing of MSUCOM events check out our Web calendar: http://www.com.msu.edu/calendar
Share your research...

We want to know about your research projects, publications, awards, grants, or other professional accomplishments. Let us share this information and celebrate your success with the MSUCOM community.

Name ___________________________ Phone ___________________________
E-mail Address _____________________ Fax ___________________________
Address __________________________________________________________

Student Year _______ Alumni Year _______ Clinical Faculty _______ Faculty _______ Other _______

Research Project/Publications/Awards & Grants: __________________________________________________________

□ I give my permission to publish this information in Communique □ On the MSUCOM Website

Signature __________________________________________________________

Mail to: Public Relations, Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine, A306 East Fee Hall, E. Lansing, MI 48824-1316.