The impressive turnout at our first Town Hall question-and-answer session on Sept. 20 tells me that I was correct in thinking that the campus would embrace the concept of enhanced communications with the Office of the President. This, my second electronic monthly newsletter, is another step in that direction.

As I mentioned at the first Town Hall meeting, I think it is important for faculty, staff, and students to have an ongoing dialogue with me and my administrative team. The next Q&A session will be held Monday, Oct. 18 from noon to 1 p.m. at our new Pharmacy Hall Addition, 20 N. Pine St., Room N203.

If you have not had time to visit this impressive seven-story, $62 million structure—please stop by. It is a state-of-the-art facility that will enhance the ability of the School and its University partners to perform cutting-edge research and education. Congratulations to Dean Natalie D. Eddington, PhD, FAAPS, former Dean David A. Knapp, PhD, and the entire School of Pharmacy team for their advocacy, persistence, and support.

Kudos also to the School of Social Work for its inaugural Patricia and Arthur Modell Symposium on Domestic Violence that attracted nearly 400 people on Oct. 6. Congratulations also to the School of Medicine, which also on Oct. 6 celebrated the 10th anniversary of its Mini-Med School, a free educational program for residents of Baltimore. The next day, Oct. 7, Dental School officials and myself enjoyed the unveiling of a special donor wall at the School's clinic in Perryville. School personnel have treated nearly 3,500 patients there since the School, Union Hospital in Elkton, Md., and the Cecil County Health Department teamed up to open the state-of-the-art 26-chair dental suite in August 2009.

October also is National Physical Therapy Month. Our Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) program is one of the best in the nation, ranked 15th in U.S. News & World Report. Our PT program began in 1956 and we have more than 2,100 alumni across the country and abroad. The department kicked off its monthly celebration with its fall Admissions Open House, which attracted more than 150 prospective applicants.

Speaking of success stories, the collaborative nature of the seven schools of our University is part of what makes Founders Week so special. I am looking forward to the week of events, including my inauguration Nov. 9. For more details, visit http://founders.umaryland.edu/2010/.

Now, what would you like to know? The last Q&A covered topics including the University’s global outreach, my vision for the University, outreach to West Baltimore, the business of health care vs. the provision of health care, the possibility of a campus bookstore, and confusion over the University name. (See page 5 for some Q&As.) As we get more questions, we will be developing a frequently asked questions link at http://www.umaryland.edu/president/.

I hope you can join us for our next Town Hall on Oct. 18 at noon. If not, you can always contact us online, using your name or anonymously, at www.umaryland.edu/president/feedback. We also encourage schools to keep us apprised of the accomplishments of your faculty and staff at kudos4perman@umaryland.edu.

All The Best,

Jay A. Perman
Laurels

CAMPUSWIDE
Kudos to the faculty members from each of our schools who are serving on the Governor’s Healthcare Reform Coordinating Council. The council, created days after President Obama signed national health reform legislation, is leading the state’s efforts to implement federal reform.

Kristyna Partain, a student in the Dental School’s dental hygiene program, was profiled in an Oct. 4 story in The Baltimore Sun and on WMAR-TV about the Komen Race for the Cure to raise funds for breast cancer research. Despite a lumpectomy, chemotherapy, and radiation treatments, Partain, a student who was diagnosed with ductal carcinoma last fall, continued to attend class and meet with her patients. Partain was accompanied in the race of 29,000 participants by her family, members of the faculty, and students from the Dental School and School of Law. A video is available at www.oea.umaryland.edu/communications/news/.

SCHOOL OF LAW
The School, working with the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, is one of five regional headquarters for the Public Health Law Network, a national network recently created by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to provide answers to professionals grappling with complex public health challenges that may warrant legal and policy solutions. Kathleen Dachille, JD, a UM School of Law professor and director of its Legal Resource Center for Tobacco Regulation, Litigation and Advocacy, is director of the Public Health Law Network’s Eastern Region.

Barbara Bezdek, JD, LLM, professor, has received an award from the Fulbright International Educational Exchange Program to teach at the Shanghai University of Finance and Economics in China in spring 2011. Bezdek will teach courses in land use, land tenure security, and community development law.
Maureen Sweeney, JD, visiting assistant professor, received the 2010 Public Service Award from the Maryland Hispanic Bar Association during the group’s gala Sept. 16. Sweeney shares the award with the Maryland Immigrant Rights Organization, of which she is a founding board member. Her public service work includes training defense lawyers on the immigration consequences of criminal convictions. Sweeney also supervises student attorneys in the law school’s Immigration Clinic who represent people in legal proceedings on immigration issues.

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

The School this week announced plans for a $200 million project to bring proton therapy to Maryland for the first time. Proton treatment is the most advanced form of radiation therapy that uses accelerated elemental particles such as protons from hydrogen atoms to precisely treat cancerous tumors throughout the body.

Rudy Castellani Jr., MD, professor, Department of Pathology, is the recipient of the 2010 Alzheimer Award presented by the Journal of Alzheimer’s Disease in recognition of his outstanding work, “Reexamining Alzheimer’s Disease: Evidence for a Protective Role for Amyloid-β Protein Precursor and Amyloid-β,” which was published in the Journal of Alzheimer’s Disease.

Kenneth Johnson, MD, professor emeritus, Department of Neurology, received the 2010 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Consortium of Multiple Sclerosis Centers (CMSC) during its 24th annual meeting in San Antonio, Texas, in June 2010. The award was presented after Johnson delivered the CMSC’s Whitaker Lecture, “Remarkable History of MS Disease Modifying Therapies.”

Thomas Scalea, MD, FACS, FCCM, Francis X. Kelly Professor of Trauma Surgery, director, Program in Trauma, and physician-in-chief, R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center, will receive the Special Achievement Award in Science and Medicine from the National Italian American Foundation (NIAF) on Oct. 23 during NIAF’s annual convention and gala in Washington, D.C. Past honorees and special guests at the annual convention include: Lee Iacocca, Sophia Loren, Martin Scorsese, Al Pacino, Alan Alda, Dr. Anthony Fauci, and our own Dr. Robert Gallo.

James Kaper, PhD, professor and chair, Department of Microbiology & Immunology, was awarded a five-year $7.5 million U19 grant from the National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Diseases for “Severe Enteric Disease: Pathogenesis and Response.” This multi-project grant will investigate important clinical, pathogenesis, and host response issues of severe enteric disease caused by diarrheagenic Escherichia coli and Shigella species. Additional project leaders include Michael Donnenberg, MD, professor, Department of Medicine, and Alessio Fasano, MD, professor, Department of Pediatrics, and director, Mucosal Biology Research Center and the Center for Celiac Research. Other aspects of this program include microbiome and bacterial genomics studies conducted by David Rasko, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Microbiology & Immunology and Institute for Genome Sciences.

Miriam Laufer, MD, MPH, assistant professor, Department of Pediatrics and Center for Vaccine Development, received a four-year $5.5 million grant for “Clinical Trial of Chloroquine Weekly or as IPT to Prevent Malaria in Pregnancy in Malawi” as part of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Clinical Trial Implementation Cooperative Agreement.

Vladimir Toshchakov, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Microbiology & Immunology, received a five-year $1,875,000 National Institutes of Health grant for his proposal titled “Deciphering the Architecture of TLR Signaling Complexes.”
SCHOOL OF NURSING

C. Daniel Mullins, PhD, professor of pharmaceutical health services research, was named co-editor-in-chief of the journal Value in Health, the official journal of the International Society of Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research.

James Polli, PhD, the Shangraw/Noxell Endowed Chair in Pharmaceutical Sciences, was named a member-at-large of the Executive Council of the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists.

Jia Bei Wang, PhD, professor of pharmaceutical sciences, has received a prestigious five-year, $3.7 million research grant from the National Institute of Health’s National Institute on Drug Abuse to develop a drug for treatment of cocaine addiction. Using an active ingredient from Chinese medicines, the drug—if effective and approved—would be the first successful drug for cocaine addiction in the U.S. and perhaps in the world.

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

Diane DePanfilis, PhD, MSW, professor and associate dean for research; Kantahyanee Murray, PhD, MA, research assistant professor; and the Ruth H. Young Center for Families and Children have just received funding to replicate their Family Connections work in Reno, Nev. DePanfilis, director of the Ruth Young Center, is principal investigator (PI) and Murray is co-PI. The School’s program, which helps families meet children’s basic needs and prevent neglect, is being reproduced in 16 sites around the country.

Nalini Negi, PhD, MSW, assistant professor, has won the 2010 Outstanding Social Work Dissertation Award from the Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR).
The award for Negi’s dissertation, titled “Protective and Risk Factors for Well-Being Among Latino Day Laborers,” was presented during the SSWR’s annual conference earlier this year.

**Questions and Answers**

FROM SEPT. 20 TOWN HALL
SOUTHERN MANAGEMENT CORPORATION
CAMPUS CENTER

**QUESTION:**
Faculty, staff, and students who are interested in global outreach opportunities often run into problems of trying to get a program through the schools of UM. What is the UM stance on global outreach?

**RESPONSE:**
UM is front and center in global outreach. One-fifth of our external funding is related to global outreach. UM needs a strong infrastructure in order to evaluate the programs available and to ensure the safety of all participants.

I am in the process of crafting a proposal now to take to the University System of Maryland Board of Regents in order to create a structure to underpin our global outreach programs.

**QUESTION:**
Do you have plans to visit centers and programs within the University? I invite you to visit the Maryland Poison Center to see firsthand how this center saves lives and saves health care costs.

**RESPONSE:**
I absolutely plan on visiting centers and programs within the University on a continuing basis, and have been doing that as much as possible since my arrival.

**QUESTION:**
What is your vision for where the University is going?

**RESPONSE:**
The schools and UM are highly ranked, which we enjoy. We need to do more as we grow, but we need to do it together. Through collaborative research, interprofessional education, and community engagement, we can leverage each other so the whole is greater than its parts.

**QUESTION:**
We have many involved students looking to bring nutritional awareness and affordable programs to the area’s schoolchildren, especially our neighbors here in West Baltimore. Does UM have any cross-campus initiatives to help make those connections stronger?

**RESPONSE:**
“Have I got a group for YOU!!” I had the privilege to meet with a group of about 75 members of our University Outreach Council on Friday. This group is faculty, staff, and students who have a strong menu of programs they are initiating to reach out to the Baltimore schools. This group has recognized how very vital community engagement is in the future of the children of the area.

The student’s contact information was taken to give to the UM Outreach Council.
**QUESTION:**
Do you support the union’s presence on campus?

**RESPONSE:**
I support our non-exempt employees’ choice in 2002 to enter into collective bargaining with the University. The Maryland General Assembly passed legislation in 2001 permitting staff employees (non-exempt, exempt, and/or sworn police officers) within the University System of Maryland and other state institutions to choose whether they wished to become unionized on their campuses. In fall 2002, the University’s non-exempt employee bargaining unit chose to be unionized by electing AFSCME as its exclusive bargaining representative. We entered into the first MOU with AFSCME in 2005 and began its second and current MOU with AFSCME in 2009. I understand that the University’s relationship with AFSCME over the years has been a professional one and I trust that cordial relationship will continue.

**QUESTION:**
The focus on campus seems to be shifting from providing health care to the business of health care, which is a very different idea. I want to teach, not worry so much about business. What is your stance on that?

**RESPONSE:**
There is a very strong difference between thinking of ourselves as a business and operating in a businesslike manner. Each year, UM receives $180 million in tax money and turns it into a billion-dollar budget. But we cannot assume that we are entitled to those tax dollars; we must be accountable. We must demonstrate that we are productive.

So, yes, we are the helping professions, but we have to show that we earn what the taxpayers give us.

**QUESTION:**
For several years now, because there have been no salary increases or merit pay increases, the annual supervisor’s evaluation process has been discontinued. Can you get Human Resources to mandate and reinstate employee evaluations, even if current conditions continue?

**RESPONSE:**
The annual performance development and evaluation process has not been discontinued due to the lack of merit pay increases. Supervisors are encouraged to complete the evaluation process especially during times when there is no merit because these are the times when employees really need feedback to indicate performance levels.

**QUESTION:**
What are the plans about the campus bookstore? Is it coming to the campus center?

**RESPONSE:**
In today’s electronic world, full of online books and Internet shopping, the bookstore as we used to know it is no more. Are we talking having retail in the Southern Management Corporation Campus Center? I’d love it! Are we talking something else entirely? There is much discussion about it and they just don’t know yet.

**QUESTION:**
It is so refreshing to hear about the “Be Nice” initiative! How can we make that spread around campus?

**RESPONSE:**
Nothing that I have said in my career elicits so much comment as my speeches about civility. I feel so strongly about it that I will call people out about it … we will not tolerate incivility.
So we need to educate. I am available to speak with any department about it. The data collected about the costs of incivility, especially in the health care professions, is very compelling.

**QUESTION:**
How can we start to distinguish UMB from the other UM campuses, and the other campuses of similar names in the area?

**RESPONSE:**
The Office of External Affairs, under the direction of Sue Gladhill, has contracted with an outside firm to handle a sweeping “branding” campaign. They are trying also to bring in the hospital with the UM campus in these initiatives. They will be working on a new logo, distinct name, an anchor line, and the tagline already in use, “Real-World Thinking, Worldwide Reach.”

**QUESTION:**
How do you propose to foster better communications between the hospital and UMB? The communication channels seem to be so dead and yet it is so vital!

**RESPONSE:**
I feel fortunate to be returning to a campus where I already have so many strong ties with folks from the hospital side. I am in regular communication with Bob Chrencik and Jeff Rivest there, and I fully intend to take advantage of those good relationships to optimize our work together.