Some of you may have seen my recent column in the September 1/OICE. If so, you might want to scroll to the laurels and Q&A section because I have chosen to discuss the same topic here. Why? Because it is that important.

You see, I have decided to accept a health care leadership award from the Baltimore Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America. Yes, the same Boy Scouts of America that recently reaffirmed its opposition to allowing openly gay children as Scouts and openly gay adults as Scoutmasters.

I can hear your questions already: Dr. Perman, as president of an institution that holds civility, diversity, and inclusion as a core value, how can you be identified with such an organization? Beyond your presidency, Dr. Perman, how could you, as someone whose entire professional career has been devoted to children, accept an award from an organization that, through its policies, says to children that certain people are different, and therefore are not to be included?

I deserve those questions and that is why I am writing.

When contacted about the award several months ago, my first reaction was to accept it with pride. This award luncheon helps fund Scouting opportunities for children with special health needs. Given my background as a pediatrician and my lifelong devotion to kids who have special health care needs, it seemed a natural fit. After all, I once was a Cub Scout myself.

But then media reports began about the national organization’s reaffirmation of its intolerance and lack of inclusiveness to gays. The Boy Scouts do many wonderful things, such as develop character and train members to be responsible citizens. But I couldn’t be associated with that intolerant policy.

After several sleepless nights, I decided what I had to do. I confronted the leadership of the Baltimore Area Council of the Boy Scouts. I was pleased to learn that the leaders don’t agree with the national organization’s position. Then I told the Scout leaders the only way I would accept their award was if they allowed me to take the microphone and respectfully say what I think about this policy. I fully expected my request to be declined. But the local Scout leaders surprised me. Not only did they say I could speak, but they said they would videotape my remarks and post them on their social media outlets and websites.

So I will be at that luncheon on Oct. 31. I am going to reiterate in my remarks that it is not acceptable for an organization totally devoted to children to insist on a policy of non-inclusiveness. I will point to our strategic plan, in which diversity is a major theme, and our President’s Diversity Advisory Council, which in addition to race, is certainly focused on inclusiveness as it relates to gender, sexual orientation, and caring about LGBT issues.

But I will also speak to them as a pediatrician and a father: Scouts teaching children that certain other children shouldn’t be included among them is the wrong message. It is unacceptable and it should not stand.

There are times when silence is not golden. My belief is that something needed to be said—not for me, but for the children. I hope you enjoy the rest of the newsletter.

All the best,

Jay A. Perman, MD
President
Laurels

CAMPUSWIDE

“Influence of Chemotherapy on EGFR Mutation Status Among Patients With Non-Small-Cell Lung Cancer” by Li Mao, MD, chair of the Department of Oncology and Diagnostic Sciences, was published in the Journal of Clinical Oncology.

Radi Masri, DDS, PhD, MS, assistant professor, is the recipient of the American College of Prosthodontists’ Clinician/Researcher Award.

“Anti-Biofilm Dentin Primer With Quaternary Ammonium and Silver Nanoparticles” by Huakun Xu, PhD, MS, professor, was published in the Journal of Dental Research.

“Microtubules Underlie Dysfunction in Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy,” written by Christopher Ward, PhD, associate professor; Carlos Borroto Blanco, research specialist; Susan Dorsey, PhD, RN, FAAN, associate dean for research; Ramzi Khairallah, PhD, postdoctoral researcher; and Guoli Shi, PhD, research specialist, each from the School of Nursing; W. Jonathan Lederer, MD, PhD; and Benjamin Prosser, PhD, School of Medicine faculty members; and Anup Mahurkar, MBA, Mark Mazaitis, and Yezhou Sun, medical school staff members, was published in the journal Science Signaling in August.

Andrew Youngkin, MLS, emerging technologies/evaluation coordinator, Southeastern/Atlantic Region of the National Network of Libraries of Medicine, HS/HSL, presented the paper “Perception Is Knowledge: 10 AR Technologies to Know and Love” during the Libraries eResource and Emerging Technologies Summit, held at Mississippi State University in August.

SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY

Cyril Enwonwu, PhD, MDS, ScD, professor, has been invited to serve on the World Health Organization’s expert advisory panel on oral health.

FRANCIS KING CAREY SCHOOL OF LAW

A team of nearly 20 students competing against other area law schools raised more than $3,000 to win the American Heart Association’s annual Law School Challenge, part of the recent Lawyers Have Heart 10K race in Washington, D.C. Ian Clark, chair of the Student Engagement Committee of the Student Health Law Organization, which organized the team, was the top individual fundraiser.
“1992: A Year of Women, Bravery, and Growth” by Karen Czapanskiy, JD, Francis and Harriet Iglehart Research Professor of Law, was published in the *University of Missouri-Kansas City Law Review*.

The forthcoming book *Young Thurgood: The Making of a Supreme Court Justice* by professor Larry Gibson, LLB, is ranked first on Amazon.com among books about Thurgood Marshall and among all biographies and memoirs about lawyers and judges.

The School has published two new online editions of its *Law Research Paper Series*. Contributing faculty members include Barbara Bezdek, JD, LLM; Richard Boldt, JD; Robert Condlin, JD, LLM; Michelle Harner, JD; Lee Kovarsky, JD; Michael Pappas, JD, MA; Garrett Power, LLM; and Rena Steinzor, JD.

JustAdvice, a nonprofit service of the law school that provides legal guidance for a small fee, collected almost $900 through the fundraising program Groupon Grassroots.

Lee Kovarsky, JD, assistant professor, challenged the constitutionality of the death penalty conviction of Marvin Wilson in Texas on the basis of a 2002 court ruling banning execution of the mentally retarded.

“Mixed Messages: The Intersection of Prenatal Genetic Testing and Abortion” by Karen Rothenberg, JD, MPA, Marjorie Cook Professor of Law, was published in the spring 2012 edition of the *Howard Law Journal*.

Gynene Sullivan, MA, associate director of design and production, was elected chair of the Council of University System Staff for the 2012-2013 academic year. The council provides a voice for University staff in the governance of the University System of Maryland.

**SCHOOL OF MEDICINE**

Miriam Blitzer, PhD, division head of human genetics in the Department of Pediatrics, was recently quoted in The *Wall Street Journal* in the article “Study Looks at Irish Risk for a Rare Fatal Disease.”

Maya Das, MD, JD, and Lisa Klingena maier, MPH, 2012 graduates of the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, were the first recipients of the Renée Royak-Schaler Memorial Endowment Award, which was presented during the department’s commencement celebration. Renée Royak-Schaler, PhD, MEd, was director of the department’s Master of Public Health Program until her death in May 2011.

Anthony DeVico, PhD, professor, has been issued a U.S. patent for “Virus Coat Protein/Receptor Chimeras and Methods of Use,” an invention for the development of drugs to inhibit viral infections. Stuart Martin, PhD, associate professor, has been issued a U.S. patent for “Inhibition of Microtubule Protrusion in Cancer Cells,” which establishes a new therapeutic target to inhibit the spread and recurrence of metastatic tumor cells that are indicative of increased mortality rates in cancer patients.

Alan Faden, MD, David S. Brown Professor in Trauma and director of the Shock, Trauma, and Anesthesiology Research Center, received a five-year competitive renewal grant of $2,357,385 for “Role of Cell Cycle Proteins After Traumatic Brain Injury.”

James Gold, PhD, professor, has been awarded the Alexander Gralnick Research Investigator Prize from the American Psychological Foundation. The $20,000 grant recognizes exceptional work in the area of mental illness.

Carol Greene, MD, professor, has been appointed chair of the Follow-Up and Treatment Subcommittee of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary’s Advisory Committee on Heritable Disorders in Newborns and Children. Greene is chair for a three-year term that began in May.

Steven Ludwig, MD, associate professor, co-wrote the chapters “Subaxial Posterior Decompression and Fusion Techniques,” “Subaxial Posterior Laminoplasty and Laminectomy,” and “Subaxial Posterior Foraminotomy” for *The Textbook of Spinal Surgery*, recently published by Lippincott Williams & Wilkins.

Terrence Mulligan, DO, MPH, assistant professor, has been elected to the board of the International Federation for Emergency Medicine. He will represent emergency medicine activities in North America.

C. David Pauza, PhD, professor, received a four-year, $3.1 million R01 grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases for his work on FcRn-targeted mucosal HIV vaccine.

Christopher Plowe, MD, MPH, leader of the Malaria Group, Center for Vaccine Development, and Andrea Berry, MD, assistant professor, received a four-year, $2.3 million grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases for their project “Immuno-epidemiological Epitope Mapping of a Blood Stage Malaria Vaccine Antigen.” Plowe was also invited to Rangoon, Myanmar, recently to present “Evolution of Drug-Resistant Malaria and the Search for Molecular Markers of Artemisinin Resistance,” the first high-visibility public lecture by an American scientist in Myanmar since that country and the U.S. restored diplomatic relations in January.

Andrew Pollak, MD, professor and associate director of trauma at the R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center, was quoted in a recent issue of *Time* magazine in the article “How This Leg Was Saved.”

Martin Schneider, PhD, director of the Interdisciplinary Program in Muscle Biology, received a five-year, $1.2 million National Institutes of Health/National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases MERIT award for “Roles of Voltage Sensor, S100A1, and Calmodulin in Skeletal Muscle Calcium Signaling.”

Lisa Shulman, MD, medical director of the Neurology Ambulatory Center, received the $50,000 Researcher Advocacy Prize from the Parkinson’s Action Network, an organization that informs decision-makers about Parkinson’s disease.
Richard Zhao, PhD, division head of molecular pathology, was the chair of the organizing committee for the Chinese Biopharmaceutical Association’s annual conference, held in Qingdao, China, in July.

H. Ronald Zielke, PhD, a division head in pediatrics, was quoted recently in numerous publications, including The New York Times, on the impact of the loss of frozen brain tissue from autistic individuals that had been stored at the Harvard Brain Tissue Resource Center. Zielke is also director of the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development’s Brain and Tissue Bank for Developmental Disorders, which is located at the School.

SCHOOL OF NURSING

Six doctoral students are among more than 100 nationwide to be named Jonas Scholars by the Jonas Center for Nursing Excellence. Four students—Sonia Brown, MS, RN, ACNP-BC; Ana Duarte, MS, PMHNP-BC; Mari Griffioen, MS, RN; and Susy Postal, MS, RN-BC—have been chosen to receive grants from the Jonas Nurse Leaders Scholar Program. Benjamin Canha, MSN, RN, and Kathryn Gift, MSN, RN, were among the first cohort to receive Jonas scholarship awards. The program aims to address the nursing faculty shortage by increasing the number of doctoral-prepared faculty.

Jeanne Geiger-Brown, PhD, MS, RN, associate professor, has been named assistant dean of research. In this role, she will focus on development and management of the Office of Research’s operational processes to support faculty and grant submissions.

Marian Grant, DNP, RN, CRNP, ACHPN, assistant professor, is a co-author of the book UNIPAC 1: The Hospice and Palliative Medicine Approach to Care. Grant has been elected to a two-year term on the board of directors of the national Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association.

Patricia Morton, PhD, RN, ANCP, FAAN, associate dean for academic affairs, and Deborah Schofield, PhD, RN, CRNP, assistant professor and program manager at the University of Maryland Medical Center, were elected to serve on the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education. Schofield also has been appointed a member of the editorial board for The Internet Journal of Advanced Nursing Practice.

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

Bethany DiPaula, PharmD, associate professor, has been appointed to the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists’ Section Advisory Group on Preceptor Skills Development.

Student Sarah Dutcher has received the Arthur Schwartz Memorial Scholarship Award from the Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research.

Dean Natalie D. Eddington, PhD, FAAPS, FCP, has been named chair of the board of directors of the National Institute for Pharmaceutical Technology and Education.
Students Jamie Elsner, David Goffman, Virginia Nguyen, and Stephanie Walters have been named Albert Schweitzer Fellows for the 2012-2013 academic year for their project “The Intergenerational Connection.”

Student Shamia Faison received a travel award from the National Institute on Drug Abuse to attend its convention Frontiers in Addiction Research.

Lauren Hynicka, PharmD, assistant professor, has been named the School’s alternate delegate to the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP).

Jill Morgan, PharmD, associate dean for student affairs, has been named chair of the AACP’s Student Services Special Interest Group.

Ebere Onukwugha, PhD, MSc, research assistant professor, has been named vice president of the School’s Faculty Assembly, which establishes and supervises policy regarding governance of faculty and students.

Student Keely Pierzchalski received a Science Research Conference Travel Award from the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology and a Graduate Student Poster Competition Award from the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science.

Wanli Smith, PhD, MD, MS, assistant professor, participated in a recent panel discussion on Capitol Hill on behalf of the Network to Overcome Obesity Now.

Student Jeremy Yap has received a predoctoral fellowship award from the American Chemical Society’s Division of Medicinal Chemistry.

“Motivations, Values, and Conflict Resolution: Students’ Integration of Personal and Professional Identities,” an article by Philip Osteen, PhD, MSW, assistant professor, has been chosen as the Journal of Social Work Education’s Best Empirical Article of 2011. Osteen and the journal’s other winners of best article awards will be honored during the Council on Social Work Education’s annual meeting in Washington, D.C., in November.
Dr. Perman: Let me make a few opening comments and then we’ll hear your questions, comments, and concerns about the shuttle. The idea was brought to me some months ago by Dr. Bruce Jarrell [chief academic and research officer and senior vice president] and Dr. Roger Ward [chief accountability officer and associate vice president]—people who are very focused as I am and I know you are on our students. Quite frankly I think it was also around the time there was a slight uptick in crime affecting our campus and the surrounding communities. So we were looking for opportunities for better transportation and better service for our students.

I make a very important point by explaining it that way. The idea of the shuttle began with an attempt to better serve our students’ needs. That’s pertinent because I’ve already heard some concerns today about the initial routes that have been defined and I need you to know that those routes took very much into account where our students are. I hope the people in this room who are not students, which is most of you, know that I obviously care about our faculty and staff as well. But the central reason to provide a fine transportation service—not just we’ll come and get you here and take you there—was to enhance our student experience.

At the risk of provoking you further I’m going to say it, and say it often: I love the faculty, I love the staff, I love the administration, and I love the schools. But among those constituencies, there’s only one constituency that pays to be here, and that’s the students. So we have to pay attention to them.

As a result we created three routes—Mount Vernon, Federal Hill, and the BioPark. I am just thrilled to see such a shuttle exist. You know we look like the real deal now. Someone reminded me that Malinda Orlin, our retired vice president for academic affairs, used to talk about a grown-up University. I’m telling you in my mind the shuttle makes me think that we’re growing up as a University. Quite frankly, I live downtown and as I see this UM shuttle moving through the streets I think it’s terrific marketing. Talk about gates and entrances to the University, this shuttle is terrific. And in case anyone has a question about how it has been received, it’s only been running for about a week and a half and we’ve counted over 1,200 riders already. That’s a very different number from the Caravan that we used to have.

Now I’ve received a lot of positive comments about the shuttle but not surprisingly I’ve also gotten some negative comments as have those who are gathering such shuttle comments. Why doesn’t it stop here? Why can’t we do this or that? Like with any other good idea, let’s give this about six months and then we can reorganize. But we’ve gotten it off the ground and I think we’re off to a great start and I congratulate everyone involved. So those are my comments and I look forward to yours.

QUESTION:
Transportation has been a problem for my daughter and I because our schedules don’t always coincide. But the new shuttle goes right by my daughter’s school. Is there any way that she would be allowed to ride the shuttle by herself so that she could get to school when I can’t take her?
ANSWER:
Dr. Perman: Well, I’m glad you brought that up for several reasons. What you have asked is very difficult and complex. So people who make sure we do things the right way don’t faint, I’m not about to say “no problem” because I’m sure there are all sorts of rules and regulations we have to abide by.

Having said that, you do bring up a question that I’m very focused on and that is child care. That is one of the things we need to improve on to make this University a “best place to work.” I do have a working group looking at better options for child care. Your particular issue raises the larger question of who can ride the shuttle. I’ll turn this over to Robert Milner, our director of parking and transportation services.

Mr. Milner: If your child would not be riding with you that is something we would need to discuss because that’s a very unique and sensitive situation. Like Dr. Perman, I would not want to get myself in any legal trouble by approving it. But in terms of the general question about who can ride the shuttle, anyone with a University ID or a University of Maryland Medical Center ID can get on the shuttle and if there is a visitor with them—whether it’s a professor or a child or family member—they are also allowed on the shuttle.

Dr. Perman: So you can have someone accompany you?

Mr. Milner: Yes.

Dr. Perman: The UM shuttle is just one of many partnerships that have come out of the MPowering the State initiative, our partnering in very effective ways with College Park. And the shuttle services are being provided by contract with UMCP. I will allow Mr. Milner to introduce our guest.

Mr. Milner: Our special guest from College Park is David Allen. He is our partner in transportation services and is the director of parking and transportation services for College Park. He’s here with his 4-year-old daughter, Lylah.

QUESTION:
Someone told me the UM shuttle is replacing the police escort, where you can call and be accompanied to your car by a police officer. Is this true?

ANSWER:
Dr. Perman: That’s a very important point. The shuttle operates in conjunction with the police escort service. It does not replace it. Chief Williams, could you comment?

Police Chief Tony Williams: The shuttle has done nothing to change the police escort program, which still operates within the campus area 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Three types of escorts are still available to University faculty, staff, and students: walking escorts, which are available around the clock, and police van and riding escorts from 6 p.m. to 12:20 a.m. Call 410-706-6882 (ext. 6-6882 from a campus phone) to request a police escort. Please remember UMB police officers are here to assist all faculty, staff, and students with any safety request. We are ready and willing to happily serve you; do not hesitate to call.

Dr. Perman: The police escort is a standing offer and we encourage anyone who is concerned about walking somewhere, particularly at night, to call our police and get a ride. That is a totally under-utilized option. The police are happy to do this. So shuttle or no shuttle, nothing changes with regard to our concerns about your safety.

QUESTION:
Regarding the police situation, I know we had discussed the possibility of a National Night Out where everyone leaves the porch lights on and members of the community get together. I think, generally speaking, a lot of people are intimidated by the police. So since the National Night Out didn’t happen this year on our campus, perhaps we can brainstorm about ways such as an Open House to get the University community and the police together so we realize they’re not as scary as some people think.
Chief Williams: I hope everyone doesn’t think I’m scary right now. I’m smiling and everything. We haven’t done an Open House here yet, but we have had some discussions about it. A small group of us spoke about a National Night Out, but time came upon us very quickly and I made the decision, rather than to do something that wouldn’t be a quality event, to instead put a committee together and start working on it for next year.

But there are a couple of things anyone can do. We’re like anybody else in public safety. The best way to break through some of those barriers is to spend some time with us, talk with us even when there is nothing going on. Our officers and patrol persons are on campus at all times. We do recognize that we do serve you and work for you. It might take an event where we’re all not there in an official patrol type of capacity to break the ice but we would like to have an Open House or some kind of opportunity to teach more about what the police actually do. We offer chances to ride with us or walk along with us. I would also ask you to speak to some of the people on our Public Safety Awareness Committee because they’re our partners. This committee is growing—we meet with them every month and they have a direct pipeline to us.

Dr. Perman and Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake are co-chairing the Westside Task Force. We are offering periodic updates in The President’s Message. The following comes from the task force’s August e-update.

It’s very encouraging to see the area getting some national attention. In May, Andrew Zimmern, host of the Travel Channel’s Bizarre Foods, headlined the Hippodrome’s Foodie Experience. He returned recently for a visit to Faidley’s Seafood and Mary Mervis Deli in Lexington Market.

Arts and Culture
Down through the Needle’s Eye, an exhibit curated by the Westside’s EMP Collective and work group member Maggie Villegas opened to a crowd of 167 on July 13.

Façade work on the Everyman Theatre is complete, with the grand opening scheduled for January 2013. The $16.8 million, 250-seat redevelopment of a former bank will stabilize the 300 block of W. Fayette St.

In June, the Maryland State Arts Council designated the Westside as the Bromo Tower Arts and Entertainment District. This designation will encourage investment in the area and will attract artists, developers of artist space, and artisan merchants.

Public Safety
The Baltimore Police Department reports that in the first half of 2012, violent crime has been reduced by 17 percent within the Lexington Market area bounded by Arch, Saratoga, Baltimore, and Howard streets.

- Robberies were down 14 percent
- Serious assaults were down 33 percent
- Property crime was down 16 percent
- Car break-ins were up 5 percent

The department’s downtown foot deployment began in May.
Lexington Market
The results are in from the University of Maryland School of Social Work’s pilot survey of Lexington Market. About 150 customers were surveyed. The respondents came from 15 ZIP codes, some more than an hour away. Respondents cited 13 distinct reasons for visiting the market, including Faidley’s Seafood, shoe repair, and live music. Respondents spend an average of $10 to $15 per visit. Overwhelmingly, respondents feel safe “inside” Lexington Market, but do not feel safe “outside” the market.

In addition to the School of Social Work’s survey, the University was cited in the Westside e-Update for its law school’s JustAdvice initiative, where legal services are offered at Lexington Market, and Dr. Perman’s inaugural class of UMB Presidential Fellows, who surveyed students about their vision and perception of the campus neighborhood, soliciting suggestions for Westside improvements.

On a more general note, the 311 smartphone application is a new, free resource available to Westside residents, merchants, property owners, and downtown workers for reporting issues related to vacant and unoccupied buildings, graffiti, unsafe sidewalks, and empty tree pits, among other non-emergency issues.