I’m happy this month to bring you some exciting news about the University of Maryland: MPowering the State, the structured alliance between the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) and the University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP).

Earlier this week, the 20 deans from both universities gathered for an all-day planning session — convened by College Park President Wallace D. Loh, PhD, JD, MA, and me — to discuss “three big ideas” each dean was asked to bring to advance the growing educational and research collaboration between the two partner institutions.

Today I can proudly tell you that MPowering the State, which was launched more than 2 ½ years ago, has never been stronger. Look at our accomplishments thus far.

We have created two major cross-university research centers:

- The Center for Health-related Informatics and Bioimaging (CHIB) combines advanced computer expertise and resources at College Park with clinical data and biomedical expertise at Baltimore. The research at CHIB will advance the concept of personalized medicine, where decisions and practices are tailored to individual patients through the use of genetic sequencing and other biomedical information.

- The Institute for Bioscience and Biotechnology Research (IBBR) combines expertise in engineering, medicine, quantitative sciences, bioscience, and technology to develop integrated, cross-disciplinary team approaches to scientific challenges, technology development, and education.

Joint research is increasing. The number of joint proposals for external funding has more than doubled since MPowering began in 2012. Total awards have increased from $8 million two years ago to more than $48 million last year. These joint proposals reflect diverse fields — from child development to robotics.

Opportunities for students are expanding, too.

- Our collaborative School of Public Health — an effort of the School of Public Health at College Park and the School of Medicine’s Department of Epidemiology and Public Health at Baltimore — is continuing its work toward accreditation. This fall it welcomed the first students who will graduate from the new collaborative school.

- The first students also enrolled this fall in the undergraduate MLAW programs — the work of the Carey School of Law, the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences, and the College of Arts and Humanities. And the new Master of Science in Law degree, an advanced degree in law for working professionals in the fields of health care, environment, and emergency management, has received Maryland Higher Education Commission approval and is recruiting its first class.

- New “academic pathways” — a 2 + 2 pathway to the BSN degree in nursing and a 3 + 3 pathway to the JD degree in law — allow College Park undergraduate students who have not yet completed their degrees to matriculate directly into UMB professional schools after completion of specific requirements. These pathways will help students complete their training more quickly — and cost effectively — a key strategy for constraining student debt.

- The University of Maryland Scholars program just completed another summer of bringing talented undergraduates from College Park to work in the lab with UMB scientists.

In addition, our Agriculture Law Education Initiative, combining the expertise of the Carey School of Law and the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, has expanded our reach into Maryland’s rural communities with myriad publications and training programs.

And UM Ventures, our joint technology commercialization effort, is accelerating the speed at which inventions move from bench to bedside, from labs into the lives of people who need them most. Invention disclosures, license agreements, and startup companies using university intellectual property have all increased dramatically under MPowering the State.
In spite of all of this dramatic growth, we’re looking for bigger and better collaborations in the years to come, one of the reasons we brought all the deans together.

We are committed to this collaborative work and to working to secure the resources needed to make it a reality. You will hear more about this in the months ahead.

Special thanks to the MPowering steering committee of Bruce Jarrell, MD, FACS, and Pete Gilbert, MSF, from UMB’s leadership team, and Michele Eastman, MEd, MA, and Mary Ann Rankin, PhD, from UMCP’s leadership team, as well as MPowering Executive Director Teresa LaMaster, JD, MA, who joined the joint effort last spring after serving as an associate dean at our Carey School of Law.

I also thank the other researchers, scholars, teachers, administrators, and students who have helped make the University of Maryland: MPowering the State such a success.

The collaborators are doing the hard work of charting a new path, reaching across disciplines, asking new questions, finding common ground, building consensus, deciphering different institutional cultures, and overcoming roadblocks to work across universities.

We have come far. And because of efforts such as the combined deans summit, I am confident our journey will become more bountiful in the years to come.

Jay A. Perman, MD
President
O WHAT A NIGHT

Sometimes the baseball gods shine upon you. Such was the case Sept. 16 when UMB Night at the Ballpark turned into something much more. The nearly 1,900 UMB people who bought tickets not only got to see an 8-2 Orioles victory — they also got to see a piece of history as the Orioles clinched their first American League East title since 1997.

The highlights were many — Dr. Perman throwing out the ceremonial first pitch — a strike! Anthony Wilkins, assistant director of Housekeeping Services, accepting a Heavy Hitter Award on behalf of the University for group sales that night and Nancy Gordon, executive director of Protocol and Special Events, receiving an award in the Diamond Group Ceremony, placing UMB among organizations recognized for top group sales all season. She also got a smooch from the Orioles Bird mascot.

But the greatest gift of all was sharing a historic night at Camden Yards that those in attendance will remember for a long time. Thanks to all those at UMB who participated. And go O’s!

Visit our Facebook page for more UMB Orioles photos.
PATRIK BAVOIL  JACQUES RAVEL

Patrik Bavoil, PhD, professor and chair of the Department of Microbial Pathogenesis at the School of Dentistry, and Jacques Ravel, PhD, professor and associate director for genomics at the School of Medicine’s Institute for Genome Sciences, received a $10.7 million grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases to conduct systems biology research on the control and prevention of sexually transmitted infections.

Tisa Silver Canady, MBA, associate director of financial education and wellness in the Office of Student Financial Assistance and Education, was quoted in the following articles: “Finding Cash for College Publication” — Essence magazine; and “Should You Buy or Should You Rent?” — Time magazine.

Megan Del Baglivo, MLS, metadata serials librarian at the Health Sciences and Human Services Library (HS/HSL); C. Steven Douglas, MA, MLS, AHIP, head, collection strategies and management, HS/HSL; and Maria Pinkas, MLS, metadata librarian, HS/HSL, contributed the chapter “Technical Services in Health Sciences Libraries” to the book Health Librarianship.

Sara Griggs, assistant director of sports programs at University Recreation and Fitness, was named the University’s Employee of the Month for August.

“Probiotics: Achieving a Better Regulatory Fit,” published in the Food and Drug Law Journal, was written by Francis King Carey School of Law faculty Diane Hoffmann, JD, MS, professor and director of the Law and Health Care Program, Virginia Rowthorn, JD, lecturer and managing director of the Law and Health Care Program, and Jack Schwartz, JD, adjunct professor; School of Medicine faculty Claire Fraser, PhD, professor in the Department of Medicine and director of the Institute for Genome Sciences (IGS), and Jacques Ravel, PhD, professor in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology and associate director for genomics, IGS; and the School of Pharmacy’s Frank Palumbo, PhD, JD, MS, professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research and executive director of the school’s Center on Drugs and Public Policy.

Roger Pederson, MBA, director of information technology for development, Center for Information Technology Services, completed a predictive analytics workshop with the goal of increasing the University’s use of analytics in fundraising.

“Web-Based Technologies for Health Sciences Reference & Instruction,” written by C. Andrew Youngkin, MLS, AHIP, emerging technologies/evaluation coordinator, National Network of Libraries of Medicine Southeast/Atlantic Region, Health Sciences and Human Services Library, was published in the Medical Reference Services Quarterly.

Na Lin, MLS, head, resource development and sharing, Health Sciences and Human Services Library, was accepted into the National Library of Medicine biomedical informatics course at Georgia Regents University.

Nancy Patterson, MLS, community outreach coordinator, National Network of Libraries of Medicine Southeast/Atlantic Region, Health Sciences and Human Services Library, presented “Health Literacy: Improving Outcomes for Patients” during the National Reproductive Health Conference in Orlando, Fla.

LAURELS ARE SUBMITTED BY THE COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENTS OF THE SCHOOLS AS WELL AS BY REPRESENTATIVES IN VARIOUS UNIVERSITYWIDE OFFICES. THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ERRORS IN THESE SELF-SUBMITTED LAURELS.
The article “Comparative Evaluation of Microleakage of Three Restorative Glass Ionomer Cements: An In Vitro Study,” co-written by Vineet Dhar, PhD, MS, associate professor and director of graduate programs in the Division of Pediatric Dentistry, was published in the Journal of Contemporary Dental Practice.

The school’s chapter of the Student National Dental Association was named Chapter of the Year in the medium-size category during the National Dental Association meeting in New Orleans.

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FRANCIS KING CAREY SCHOOL OF LAW

“Thinking Ahead – Implementing the NIST Cybersecurity Framework to Protect From Potential Legal Liability,” written by Markus Rauschecker, JD ’06, adjunct faculty member and senior law and policy analyst at the Center for Health and Homeland Security, was published in U.S. Cybersecurity Magazine.

Student Brenda Kathurima won the 2014 Leesfield/American Association for Justice Law Student Scholarship.

Michael Pappas, JD, assistant professor, was named the Pace University Law School’s Pace Environmental Law Distinguished Junior Scholar of 2014.

“Presidential Power to Address Climate Change in an Era of Legislative Gridlock,” written by Robert Percival, JD, MA, Robert F. Stanton Professor of Law and director of the Environmental Law Program, was published in the Virginia Environmental Law Journal. The book Global Environmental Law at a Crossroads, the writers of which include Percival and William Piermattei, JD, managing director of the Environmental Law Program, was published by Edward Elgar Publishers.

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“Belling the Partisan Cats: Preliminary Thoughts on Identifying and Mending a Dysfunctional Constitutional Order,” written by Mark Graber, JD, PhD, MA, professor, was published in the Boston University Law Review.

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The article “In Situ Assessment of Effects of the Bromide- and Fluoride-Incorporating Adhesive Systems on Biofilm and Secondary Caries,” co-written by Mary Anne Melo, DDS, PhD, MSc, assistant professor in the Department of Endodontics, Prosthodontics and Operative Dentistry, was published in the Journal of Contemporary Dental Practice.

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“Thinking Ahead – Implementing the NIST Cybersecurity Framework to Protect From Potential Legal Liability,” written by Markus Rauschecker, JD ’06, adjunct faculty member and senior law and policy analyst at the Center for Health and Homeland Security, was published in U.S. Cybersecurity Magazine.
Rena Steinzor, JD, professor, testified on cooperative federalism before the congressional Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Environment and Economics. Steinzor also talked about reforms to the Environmental Protection Agency’s Integrated Risk Information System before the congressional Committee on Science, Space, and Technology’s Subcommittee on Oversight and Environment.

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Vasken Dilsizian, MD, professor in the Department of Diagnostic Radiology & Nuclear Medicine, was chosen by his peers as the winner of the 2014 Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging Hermann Blumgart Award, the highest honor bestowed by the Cardiovascular Council of the Society of Nuclear Medicine.

Michael Dimyan, MD, assistant professor in the Department of Neurology, was awarded a five-year, $919,970 Mentored Patient-Oriented Research Career Development Award (K23) by the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke for “Modulation of Interhemispheric Interactions and Arm Activity After Stroke.”

“Techniques for Compensating Movement of a Treatment Target In a Patient,” invented by Department of Radiation Oncology faculty members Warren D’Souza, PhD, MBA, professor, and Hao Zhang, PhD, assistant professor, was issued a U.S. patent.

Claire Fraser, PhD, professor in the Department of Medicine and director of the Institute for Genome Sciences (IGS); Owen White, PhD, professor in the Department of Epidemiology & Public Health and associate director of IGS; and David Rasko, PhD, associate professor in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology, also with IGS, were awarded a five-year, $15,214,315 grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases to create the Genome Center for Infectious Diseases.

Robert Gallo, MD, Homer and Martha Gudelsky Distinguished Professor in the Department of Medicine and director of the Institute of Human Virology, wrote an editorial that was published in USA Today. The article, which was referred to on the front page, addressed irony regarding the downing of Malaysian Airline MH17, which killed colleagues en route to an international AIDS conference over Ukraine, “one of the worst countries in Europe affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic.”

Michael Dimyan

Student Curtis Gallagher was awarded the 2014 Glaser Prize in Imaging for his image of a hippocampal neuron in cell culture expressing cyan fluorescent protein. Gallagher’s image and all of the 2013 and 2014 submitted images are on display in the second-floor lobby of the Southern Management Corporation Campus Center.

Curtis Gallagher’s Award-Winning Image.

John LaMattina, MD, assistant professor in the Department of Surgery, was named to The Daily Record newspaper’s “Influential Marylanders Under 40” list for his leadership of the living donor liver transplant program at the University of Maryland Medical Center.

Wendy Lane, MD, MPH, clinical associate professor in the Department of Epidemiology & Public Health, was named chair of the Child Abuse Special Interest Group for the American Pediatric Association. Lane also was awarded a 2014 Commissioner’s Award from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and its Children’s Bureau’s Office on Child Abuse and Neglect. The Commissioner’s Awards honor one person from each state and U.S. territory for exceptional contribution to the prevention and treatment of child abuse and neglect.
Benjamin Lawner, DO, MS, EMT-P, assistant professor in the Department of Emergency Medicine, and student Andrew Bouland, MS-III, recently coordinated and led a training session in hands-only CPR at Baltimore’s City Hall. Among the students was Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake. Video from the event is posted at www.youtube.com/watch?v=C0DXFbACrIs.

Vincent Njar, PhD, and Angela Brodie, PhD, professors in the Department of Pharmacology, are among the inventors of “Compositions and Methods of Inducing Endoplasmic Reticulum Stress Response,” which was issued a U.S. patent.

Denise Orwig, PhD, associate professor in the Department of Epidemiology & Public Health, was named a Health Sciences Fellow by the Gerontological Society of America. Orwig was recognized for her work in gerontology.

John Reed, MD, MDiv, assistant professor in the Department of Family & Community Medicine and director of inpatient services at the Center for Integrative Medicine, was interviewed for The Huffington Post article “4 Ways We Calm Ourselves Down Without Really Knowing It.”

Devinder Singh, MD, associate professor in the Department of Surgery, earned third place at the annual Abdominal Wall Reconstruction conference in Washington, D.C. The research project, “Novel Technique for Innervated Abdominal Wall Vascularized Composite Allotransplantation: A Separation of Components Approach,” was presented by student Vasilios Mavrophilippos.

Marcelo Sztein, MD, professor in the Department of Pediatrics and at the Center for Vaccine Development, was awarded a five-year, $13,494,225 competitive renewal of the National Institutes of Health Research Project Cooperative Agreement (U19) “Mucosal and Systemic Immunity, Vaccines and Microbiota Interplay in Humans.” The award also involves other faculty, including Wilbur Chen, MD, associate professor in the Department of Medicine; Claire Fraser, PhD, professor in the Department of Medicine and director of the Institute for Genome Sciences (IGS); Bruce Greenwald, MD, professor in the Department of Medicine; Laurence Magder, PhD, professor in the Department of Epidemiology & Public Health; and Owen White, PhD, professor in the Department of Epidemiology & Public Health and director of bioinformatics at IGS.

Jing Yin, DDS, research supervisor at the Genomics Core Facility in the school, was named the University’s Employee of the Month for July.
Robin Newhouse, PhD, RN, NEA-BC, FAAN, professor and chair, Department of Organizational Systems and Adult Health, was inducted into the International Nurse Researcher Hall of Fame. The induction was made during the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing’s International Nursing Research Congress, held in Hong Kong.

The local writers of “Burnout, Compassion Fatigue, Compassion Satisfaction, and Secondary Traumatic Stress in Trauma Nurses,” published in the Journal of Trauma Nursing, include faculty Kathryn VonRueden, MS, RN, CNS-BC, FCCM, associate professor, and Erika Friedmann, PhD, professor, and R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center staff Karen McQuillan, MS, RN, CNS-BC, CCRN, CNRN, FAAN; Rebecca Gilmore, RN; Betsy Kramer, BS/BM, RN; and Mary Murray, MS, RN.

Students Abdullah Aly and Viktor Chirikov are recipients of the Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research’s 2014-2015 Donald O. Fedder Memorial Fellowship Award.

Students Heather Boyce and Jacky Lin received Travel Awards from the 17th International Diffuse Reflectance Conference, held in Chambersburg, Pa.

Students Mehmet Burcu and Xinyi Ng received the Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research’s 2014-2015 Arthur Schwartz Memorial Scholarship Award.

Students Lijia Chen and Sarah Sushchyk received 2014-2015 Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences Fellowship Awards.

Students Ting-Yang “Jane” Huang won first place in AcademyHealth’s Presenting Research in Compelling Ways Student Pecha Kucha Style Competition. Student Xinyi Ng won third place.
Maureen Kane, PhD, assistant professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, received a five-year, $863,438 contract from the University of Kansas Center for Research for “Molecular Determinants of Retinoid Metabolism in Embryonic Tissues.”


Lisa Lebovitz, JD, assistant dean for academic affairs, was named the University’s Employee of the Month for June.

Linda Simoni-Wastila, PhD, professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research, received a two-year, $207,178 contract from Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corp. for “Novartis HEOR Fellowship.”

Patrick Wintrode, PhD, associate professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, received a two-year, $200,000 grant from the Alpha-1 Foundation for “Modeling Misfolded Z Alpha 1-antitrypsis for In silico Drug Design.”

Fengtian Xue, PhD, assistant professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, received a one-year, $100,000 grant from the Leukemia Research Foundation for “Small Molecule BCL6 Inhibitors for Diffuse Large B-cell Lymphoma.”

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

Marie Bailey-Kloch, MSW, LCSW-C, student and adjunct faculty member, presented the poster “Poetry in Street-Level Prostitution” at the 31st Annual Conference of the National Organization of Forensic Social Work.
Julie Gilliam, MS, senior instructional technology specialist, presented “Investigating the Role of an Enhanced Textbook: Using the Principles of Human Centered Design” at the Joint World Conference on Social Work, Education and Social Development in Melbourne, Australia.

Shasha Satchell, a Resource Mom with the Promise Heights’ B’more for Healthy Babies program, and Stacey Stephens, LCSW-C, clinical instructor and program director of B’more for Healthy Babies, made the presentation “Circle Up: Creating Collaborative Circles to Support and Improve Breastfeeding Practices in Urban African American Women” during the Fifth National Breastfeeding Coalitions Conference, held in Arlington, Va.

Jay Unick, PhD, assistant professor, is part of a University of California-San Francisco R01 grant that will explore “Disparities in Acute Psychiatric Care: System, Community, & Economic Determinants.” The school’s portion of the $338,541 grant is more than $163,000 and runs through April 2015.

Heart Walk

Be sure to circle the date of Saturday, Oct. 11, on your calendar. That morning the American Heart Association (AHA) will be holding its annual Greater Baltimore Heart Walk at Camden Yards. The University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) is proud to be a participating partner for the third straight year.

UMB backed the AHA’s premier event in 2012 with 350 walkers and $33,000 in donations and last year with 139 walkers and $10,859 raised. This year’s goal is surpassing the initial year and raising $40,000.

If you are interested in becoming a walker or joining a UMB team for the Heart Walk, please visit the Heart Walk website where you can find registration information. If you cannot walk that day but would like to support UMB’s teams, visit the same website to make a donation.

Even if heart disease hasn’t touched you or a member of your family, all members of the UMB community owe a debt of thanks to the AHA, which in Fiscal Year 2013 contributed more than $2.4 million to fund research at UMB. Each moment spent encouraging others about cardiovascular health and wellness is important.

Thanks in advance for your support and special thanks to Human Resources’ Jina Bacchus, who has generously volunteered to serve as UMB’s Heart Walk coordinator. She can help you with event questions at jina.bacchus@umaryland.edu.
RESEARCH HARBOR GROWS

Success stories abound from the University’s 2011-2016 strategic plan. Occasionally in The President’s Message, we bring them to you. The following is an update on the November 2013 success story on the Research HARBOR.

Sometimes it takes others to show you how far you have to go to reach your goal. Maybe it’s a high school athlete who wants to be an Olympian or a PhD student who aspires to be a senior scientist.

Such was the case when the University of Maryland, Baltimore’s Research HARBOR (Helping Advance Research By Organizing Resources) hosted a symposium in April 2014 featuring nationally renowned leaders from the Vanderbilt University Office of Research Informatics. The guests shared their expertise and portal, StarBRITE, in a presentation at the Southern Management Corporation Campus Center attended by roughly 60 researchers from all UMB schools.

“StarBRITE, Vanderbilt’s biomedical research integration, translation, and education portal, serves as an exemplar for what UMB’s Research HARBOR could grow to become,” says Kathryn Lothschuetz Montgomery, PhD, RN, NEA-BC, associate dean for strategic partnerships at the School of Nursing and one of the leaders of the achieving pre-eminence as an innovator committee of the strategic plan.

The symposium showed the UMB attendees the potential of the Research HARBOR, and informatics activities across the campus, as well as joint opportunities with UMB’s primary MPowering partner, the University of Maryland, College Park. The enthusiastic response to the symposium supplies further evidence that the HARBOR is in the process of becoming an important UMB commodity.

Called a “one-stop shop for informatics research support needs,” by Bruce Jarrell, MD, FACS, chief academic and research officer and senior vice president at UMB, the Research HARBOR is actively engaged in usability testing and creating procedures and processes for campus researchers desiring entrance to HARBOR resources.

“Navigating the many data resources, research support resources such as statistics support, and the many regulatory requirements is complex and certainly not consolidated in one location,” Jarrell adds. “As the first step, the Research HARBOR aims to aggregate these resources.”

Institutional Review Board-approved studies are using the capabilities of the HARBOR right now. As an educational tool, existing informatics course materials for UMB students will become part of the Research HARBOR. Also, and in collaboration with the University of Maryland Medical System, the data sources available to access are expanding. Resources available in addition to access rights to the Research HARBOR include study design support, data mining, and analytics through experts in the School of Medicine’s Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, where the Research HARBOR is based.

The number of UMB schools using the HARBOR also is expanding. “In our efforts to strengthen the fabric of society, social work has an interest in understanding health equities and identifying vulnerable populations or underserved communities; the HARBOR provides the resources to advance this work,” says Bethany Lee, PhD, MSW, associate dean for research at the School of Social Work.

Lee also is encouraged that the HARBOR is expanding UMB’s capacity and infrastructure for supporting “big data” projects — that is data too large and complex to manipulate with standard methods or tools. This is an evolving area in science and in health care that presents new security and privacy issues.

Frank Pasquale, JD, professor at the Francis King Carey School of Law, recently was named to the national Council for Big Data, Ethics, and Society, which works in collaboration with the National Science Foundation to provide critical social and cultural perspectives on big data initiatives.

“We are particularly well-positioned to make fundamental contributions to the development of the learning health care system and interprofessional use of big data here at UMB,” Pasquale says.

A strategic plan work group and invited guests will hold a fall forum on Oct. 28 to examine the current practices from national and state “thought leaders” and work on developing UMB recommendations.

“We hope to provide leadership in shaping our use of big data and contribute to shaping the national standards for its use and governance,” Montgomery says of the forum, which will include national leaders on health privacy and security. “A work group has been formed to design the necessary data security and safeguards for privacy, which will be further informed by the fall forum.”

Thanks to ongoing commitment from campus leadership, providing strategic planning funding and other dollars, the University is making major headway with its Research HARBOR. Expect to hear more about this important resource-intensive initiative in the months to come.