Around the country and here in Baltimore, considerable attention is being paid to anchor institutions — the role they play in invigorating the economies of their host cities and in creating vibrant communities of the neighborhoods nearest to them.

Anchor institutions are large, often nonprofit organizations that, once established in an inner city, tend not to relocate. They’re rooted, or anchored, in place. Universities and hospitals — “eds and meds” — are the country’s most common anchors, filling the void created by a manufacturing sector that’s largely pulled up stakes from America’s city centers.

UMB and the University of Maryland Medical Center are two of Baltimore’s biggest anchor institutions. Our economic impact on the city is significant: We spend a lot of money on goods and services here, we employ thousands of people, and we generate several thousand more jobs outside our organizations. We attract businesses and highly skilled people to the area. We occupy a lot of space. And, without question, we’re here to stay.

This is the first of an occasional series of columns on UMB’s role as one of Baltimore’s most powerful anchor institutions and our responsibilities to the city we call home.

The “responsibilities” I invoke aren’t borne of charity or even social responsibility. They’re borne of necessity. UMB needs Baltimore to be strong, its neighborhoods to be inviting, its residents to be socially connected and economically secure. We need a robust community of customers for the services we provide — education and health care — and we need a supportive environment that allows us to do our best work.

Of course, Baltimore needs UMB, too. Baltimore needs thriving institutions like ours that spend money, supply jobs, and create community wealth.

Our obligation as an anchor institution, then, is to do these things better — to leverage our economic influence in a way that produces targeted community benefits. This entails helping local vendors compete for University dollars, hiring more of our workforce from the community, and connecting neighborhood residents with job skills training so that they’re ready for employment — not just at UMB but at organizations citywide.

Being a good anchor means incubating and advising new businesses, including social enterprises; linking local companies and advocacy groups with networks and resources that can help them achieve their goals; and developing or redeveloping real estate in a way that promotes dynamic, safe, and sustainable neighborhoods.

For this inaugural column on UMB’s anchor obligations, I’ll spotlight some new efforts to localize University purchasing.

For an organization like ours, buying products and services from local companies isn’t always easy. A good share of any research university’s spending is on specialized items like lab equipment and materials or sophisticated IT products and services, which, right now, few local companies can offer.

What our neighborhood businesses can provide is food and catering services. Every year, UMB spends about $1 million in small-scale food purchases — under $5,000 apiece. But local vendors win very little of this money because they have limited capacity to complete the University’s procurement processes and market themselves to campus buyers.

Through a $20,000 grant from the Baltimore Integration Partnership, we’re working with community and business development organizations to train local vendors in UMB’s procurement procedures, to develop a web tool that allows University employees to identify and evaluate local food options for campus delivery and catering, and to establish on-campus food fairs and off-campus food tours that create opportunities for UMB personnel and local business owners to engage with one another.

Meanwhile, the University of Maryland BioPark invites local merchants to cater regular events — like its monthly “Science in the City” social — which raises the vendors’ profile among BioPark tenants and visitors.

Catering is just one vehicle for expanding neighborhood access to University purchasing; there are more. UMB has traditionally bid its landscaping and exterior trash removal services as a single package on the open market. Now we’ve chosen, instead, to unbundle the package and offer the contract to certified work centers, which serve individuals with disabilities, providing them rehabilitation services, training, and employment opportunities.
The award for exterior trash removal went to St. Peter’s Adult Learning Center on South Poppleton Street in West Baltimore, right next to our BioPark. The center’s mission is to promote self-sufficiency among adults with developmental disabilities, integrate its clients into the community, and improve their quality of life through vocational and recreational programming. The one-year trash removal contract is valued at nearly $100,000 and comes with four one-year renewal options.

This is how we want to do business. These are small examples, yes, but they’re emblematic of our efforts to strengthen our ties to the local community and prove our value as an anchor institution. Being ever-conscious of where our money goes, being vigilant about how we wield our purchasing power, is not the easy path. But it’s the one that builds community strength and vitality — and the one that benefits UMB in kind.

In future columns, I’ll share additional efforts we’re undertaking in our role as an anchor institution — efforts to increase local hiring, advance workforce development, stimulate neighborhood revitalization, and enhance community engagement. I welcome a sustained dialogue on this “anchor” proposition — how we best deploy our resources for mutual community and University gain and become the neighbor our neighbors deserve.

Jay A. Perman, MD
President

To see more splendid achievements by UMB’s faculty, staff, and students, be sure to visit our gallery of Champions of Excellence. Congratulations, champions! umaryland.edu/champions
Bill Crockett, MS, executive director, Campus Life Services, was elected president-elect of the National Intramural Recreation Sports Association (NIRSA) in January. NIRSA is the foremost resource for professional and student development, education, and research in collegiate recreational sports.

At UMB’s Black History Month commemoration on Feb. 4, the University’s annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Diversity Recognition Awards were presented. This year’s winners are Charmaine Rochester, PharmD, CDE, BCPS, BCACP, associate professor at the School of Pharmacy (Outstanding UMB Faculty Award); Wendy Shaia, EdD, MSW ’01, executive director of the Social Work Community Outreach Service (SWCOS) at the School of Social Work (Outstanding UMB Staff Award); and the Latina/o Law Students Association and the Immigration Law and Policy Association, each at the Francis King Carey School of Law (Outstanding UMB Student Award). Read more on the winners.

Kimberly F. Yang, JD, MLS, research, education, and outreach librarian, Health Sciences and Human Services Library, contributed the chapter “From Nonprofits to Libraries: Information-Gathering, Communication, and Relationship-Building — Skills that Transcend Fields,” in Skills to Make a Librarian: Transferable Skills Inside and Outside the Library.

Radi Masri, DDS, PhD, research associate professor, Department of Endodontics, Prosthodontics and Operative Dentistry, has been elected to the American Board of Prosthodontics. In addition, Masri and Raimi Quiton, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Psychology, University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC), received a $75,000 UMB-UMBC Research and Innovation Partnership Grant for their project, “The Role of the Superior Colliculus in Migraine Pathophysiology.”

“The Influence of Dentin Demineralization on Morphological Features of Cavities Using Er:YAG Laser,” co-written by Mary Anne Melo, DDS, MSc, PhD, clinical assistant professor, Department of Endodontics, Prosthodontics and Operative Dentistry, was published in the journal Photomedicine and Laser Surgery.
“Periodontal Regeneration of Intrabony Defects: A Systematic Review” and “Periodontal Regeneration – Intrabony Defects: A Consensus Report from the AAP Regeneration Workshop,” both co-written by Mark A. Reynolds, DDS, PhD, MA, dean and professor, were published in the Journal of Periodontology.

“A Novel Protein-Repellant Dental Composite Containing 2-Methacryloyloxyethyl Phosphorylcholine,” co-written by Huakun Xu, PhD, MS, professor, Department of Endodontics, Prosthodontics and Operative Dentistry, and director, biomaterials and tissue engineering, was published in The International Journal of Oral Science.


“Promoting Innovation While Preventing Discrimination: Policy Goals for the Scored Society,” by Danielle Citron, JD, Lois K. Macht Research Professor of Law, and Frank Pasquale, JD, MPhil, professor, was published in the Washington Law Review. Pasquale also wrote “The Hidden Costs of Health Care Cost-Cutting: Toward a Postneoliberal Health-Reform Agenda,” which was published in the journal Law & Contemporary Problems.

“Stalled at 20: VAWA, the Criminal Justice System, and the Possibilities of Restorative Justice,” by Leigh Goodmark, JD, professor, was published in the CUNY Law Review.

Garret Power, LLM, LLB, professor emeritus of law and president of Westminster Preservation Trust, was named the Baltimore City Historical Society’s 2014 Historian Scholar.

Lori Romer Stone, JD ’04, senior law and policy analyst for the Center for Health and Homeland Security, presented on a regional leadership panel at the Mid-Atlantic Consortium for Interoperable Nationwide Advanced Communications Public Safety Broadband Workshop in Richmond, Va.
Cynthia Bearer, MD, the Mary Gray Cobey Professor of Neonatology in the Department of Pediatrics, has been awarded the Smith Medal from her alma mater, Smith College. The award recognizes alumnae who exemplify in their lives and work “the true purpose” of a liberal arts education.

Brian Berman, MD, professor, Family & Community Medicine, and director, Center for Integrative Medicine, and Claudia Witt, MD, MBA, professor in the department and center, were authors on “Using the Framework of Corporate Culture in ‘Mergers’ to Support the Development of a Cultural Basis for Integrative Medicine – Guidance for Building an Integrative Medicine Department or Service,” which was published in Patient Preference and Adherence. Berman also presented a lecture “The Body Electric: Using Kirlian Photography to Diagnose and Treat Chronic Conditions” at The Human Guide to our Creative Brain conference at the American Visionary Art Museum. Witt also was lead author on “Combining ‘Omics and Comparative Effectiveness Research: Evidence-Based Clinical Research Decision-Making for Chinese Medicine,” which was published in Science.

The Center for School Mental Health, co-directed by Sharon Hoover Stephan, PhD, and Nancy Lever, PhD, both associate professors in the Department of Psychiatry, successfully competed for the following six grants, totaling $5,198,864: “Maryland’s Suicide Prevention and Early Intervention Network,” a five-year, $1,269,055 grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA); “Project Aware — Now Is the Time State Educational Agency Grant,” a five-year, $831,133 grant from SAMHSA; “Maryland Healthy Transitions,” a five-year, $707,025 grant from SAMHSA; “Collaborative Improvement & Innovation Network on School-Based Health Services,” a four-year, $1,206,562 grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration; “Developing Knowledge About What Works to Make Schools Safe,” a three-year, $625,360 grant from the National Institute of Justice; and “Maryland Behavioral Health for Adolescents and Young Adults,” a four-year, $559,729 grant from SAMHSA.

The Gerontology Early Career Development Award, funded through a generous donation, has been established to foster early academic productivity in aging research for students in the Doctoral Program in Gerontology in the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health. The first three awardees were Cristan Smith, Rasheeda Johnson, and Mingliang Dai.

Student Mary Larkin and her mentor, Allen Place, PhD, from the Institute of Marine and Environmental Technology, were awarded a $100,000 Maryland Industrial Partnerships grant.

Myaing Myaing Nyunt, MD, MPH, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Medicine, received a two-year, $4,626,240 grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for “Evidence and Action for Malaria Elimination in Myanmar.”

Christopher Plowe, MD, MPH, professor, Department of Medicine and Center for Vaccine Development, has been elected as the 2014-2015 president of the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene.
Student Spencer Todd is among the authors of “Functional G-protein-coupled Receptor 35 Is Expressed by Neurons in the CA1 Field of the Hippocampus,” which was published in the journal Biochemical Pharmacology.

G. David Trisler, PhD, and Christopher Bever Jr., MD, MBA, assistant professor and professor, respectively, in the Department of Neurology, are among the inventors of “Stem Cell Culture Medium and Method of Using Said Method and the Cells,” which received a U.S. patent. The invention is a method for purification and propagation in stem cell research.

Student Genevieve Parr, MS ’11, received a Central Scholarship — the Richard Louis Caplan Memorial Scholarship for Mental Health Practitioners for the 2015-2016 academic year. The scholarship provides awards for students with a proven track record of employment in a clinical area treating patients with personality disorders, schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and/or depression.

Shady Grove student Sarah Trandel-Korenchuk was elected president of the Maryland Association of Nursing Students (MANS) for 2015-2016. In addition, at the January conference she received the MANS Community Scholarship Award and her photo submission won the MANS Image of Nursing Campaign.

Alison Trinkoff, ScD, MPH, RN, FAAN, professor; Nancy Lerner, DNP, RN, CDONA, assistant professor; Carla Storr, ScD, MPH, professor; and Meg Johantgen, PhD, RN, associate professor and assistant dean for the PhD program, were among the co-authors of “Leadership Education Certification and Resident Outcomes in U.S. Nursing Homes: Cross-Sectional Secondary Data Analysis,” which was published in the International Journal of Nursing Studies.

Fran Valle, DNP ’10, MS ’99, CRNP, assistant professor, has been named director of the Post-Master’s Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program.

The following faculty were selected for the National League for Nursing’s (NLN) LEAD program or for the NLN’s Leadership Development Program for Simulation Educators: clinical instructors Amy Daniels, MS ‘12, RN, CHSE, and Michelle Moulton, MS ‘09, RN, PCCN, CHSE; and assistant professors Lori Edwards, DrPH, BSN ‘80, RN, PHCNS-BC, Vanessa Fahie, PhD ‘94, BSN ‘76, RN, and Margaret Hammersla, MS ‘06, BSN ‘95, RN, CRNP.

Shady Grove student Anne Giampietro received the Maryland Association of Nursing Students Unconventional Student Scholarship Award. The scholarship is awarded to students entering a second degree program or who are older than 25.

Robin Newhouse, PhD ’00, RN, NEA-BC, FAAN, professor and chair, Department of Organizational Systems and Adult Health, co-authored “The Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute’s Role in Advancing Methods for Patient-Centered Outcomes Research,” which was published in Medical Care, and “The Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI),” which appeared in Nursing Research.
Student Mehmet Burcu received a 2015 AcademyHealth Presidential Scholarship for Child Health Policy.

Student Shamia Faison received an Early Career Investigator Conference Award to attend the 2015 International Conference on Global Health in China in April.

Allison Lardieri, PharmD, assistant professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, received a three-month, $8,262 grant from Cumberland Pharmaceuticals for “Stability of Lactulose (Kristolose) Compared to Polyethylene Glycol (Miralax) at Varying Time Points and in Common Liquids.”

Tim Rocafort, PharmD, assistant professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, received a six-month, $36,299 contract from Johns Hopkins Home Health Care for “Joint Clinical and Educational Collaboration.”

Magaly Rodriguez de Bittner, PharmD, professor and chair, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, received a one-year, $5,000 contract from MedChi, the Maryland State Medical Society, for “Physician Dispensing in Maryland: An Educational Series.”

Leah Sera, PharmD, assistant professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, received a one-year, $89,572 contract from MedStar Health for “MedStar Montgomery Medical Center.”

Student Xian Shen received a one-year, $25,000 grant from the PhRMA Foundation for “Impact of Characteristics of Medicare Part D Plans on Medication Adherence Among Randomized Beneficiaries with Low-Income Subsidies.”

Bruce Stuart, PhD, professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research, and director, Peter Lamy Center on Drug Therapy and Aging, received a four-month, $20,000 contract from Pfizer for “Assessing the Costs of Disability Among Medicare Beneficiaries.”

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

Associate professors Melissa Bellin, PhD, and Kathryn Collins, PhD, were among the authors of “The Influence of Community Violence and Protective Factors on Asthma Morbidity and Healthcare Utilization in High-Risk Children,” which was published in the Journal of Urban Health.

Lisa Berlin, PhD, associate professor, was one of two invited plenary speakers at the Bridging the Gap conference sponsored by The Children’s Center in Salt Lake City, Utah. She spoke on intervention programs to support early child-parent attachments and on their community-based implementation.

Joan Davitt, PhD, associate professor, was nominated to chair the Editorial Board Executive Committee of the Journal of Gerontological Social Work.


“Prevalence and Relationship Between Adverse Childhood Experiences and Child Behavior Among Young Children Engaged in the Child Welfare System,” written by Pamela Clarkson Freeman, PhD, research assistant professor, was published in the Infant Mental Health Journal.
Henriette Taylor, LGSW, community school coordinator for Promise Heights, testified before the U.S. Senate’s Health, Labor, Education and Pensions Committee on “Fixing No Child Left Behind: Innovation to Better Meet the Needs of Students (Roundtable).”

Michelle Tuten, PhD, assistant professor, in collaboration with the Center for Addiction and Pregnancy, has received more than $17,000 in funding from the National Institute on Drug Abuse to study Reinforcement Based Treatment in a population of pregnant women with substance use disorders.

Many times this winter simply walking from our garage or bus stop to our building was a chilling experience thanks to the frigid temperatures. But just imagine if part of your job required working outside in this record cold.

For that reason I would like to offer my heartfelt thanks to the men and women in facilities and plant operations, parking services, public safety, and other related departments who are here all hours of the day and night, regardless of weather, making sure we have a safe environment in which to work and study.

We saw less snow than in previous years, but the seemingly relentless cold produced many days of icy conditions that our workforce cleared from our campus, in many cases in the early morning hours while most of us were still warm in our beds.

Thanks to all of you who went the extra mile to help the University survive the elements. Now, let’s look forward to spring, and some warmth. Please!

Jay A. Perman, MD
President
Dr. Perman held a group Q&A on Feb. 23 at the School of Pharmacy. The session included a presentation by James L. Hughes, MBA, chief enterprise and economic development officer, vice president, and director of UM Ventures, on UM’s role as an economic engine in the state. Excerpts of that and questions and answers that followed appear below.

DR. PERMAN:
Thank you for coming to the Q&A. You may have been admiring the photography behind me. These are the winning entries in the Snap photo contest. Some of the winning photographers are here with us today. Please stand up to be recognized. You do lovely work.

One of the things I have tried to do each Q&A is to begin with a topic. Today’s is economic development, what we’re doing with community, what we’re doing with the BioPark. It’s one of the areas that really distinguishes this campus and I think makes our future bright. I’ve asked Jim Hughes, our vice president in charge of these matters, to update us.

MR. HUGHES:
When you think of economic development, the core traditional activities of the University are really the key drivers. Certainly educating all the people we do and the research we do and just being one of the largest businesses in Baltimore City all have a tremendous impact. What I am going to focus on today are just a couple slices of that — what we’re doing in the community surrounding us and what we’re doing with industry, particularly biotech and pharmaceutical companies.

I borrowed the title of this talk, “Entrepreneurial Culture Boosts Business,” from a recent op-ed piece that Dr. Perman did in The Baltimore Sun.

East of Martin Luther King Boulevard is an area that we are branding, to a certain extent, University City. This is a partnership that Dr. Perman and the mayor formed a few years ago and they co-chair a committee. Unlike a lot of committees that start with enthusiasm and then die off, this has been going strong and really picking up steam. The initial focus was on security.

Looking at the Lexington Market area, we really have three police forces there — University, Baltimore City, and MTA. They’re coordinating with one another and their efforts have dramatically brought down crime.

How many of you are aware we now have the Bromo Arts District? In this area near the heart of the campus but slightly to the east with the Hippodrome Theatre, we now have the Everyman Theatre. We have received, from the city and the state, designation as an arts district. This is beginning to pick up momentum.

We also have projects that are just beginning. Kathy Byington and Angela Fowler-Young have been working hard with the University properties. We have about a dozen or so properties that the University has purchased over the years and are in need of repair. Kathy is working with a private developer who will hopefully be developing, in fairly short order, Drovers Bank and Sons of Italy. This is a key block between the Hippodrome Theatre and Lexington Market.

Lexington Market is the big push right now. There’s been some coverage in the press of doing a major revitalization of the market. I expect in the next three to six months we’ll come back with some plans there and get your input.

To the west of Martin Luther King Boulevard, Southwest Baltimore has come together with a coalition of community leaders. They have come to the University, to the medical center, the Goldseker Foundation, and several others and said we need your help to look at this area. So it’s the seven neighborhoods just to the west of us. The University helped fund a master plan that’s focusing on residential development in that area, also looking at various neighborhood parks and really trying to drive retail around Hollins Market, which is a smaller version of Lexington Market, B&O Railroad Museum, and just along Baltimore Street there.

Now let me talk about the BioPark. A lot of the attention for the BioPark is on buildings. Today, I’d like to focus on some of the collaborations. We have about three dozen tenants in the BioPark, small companies, large companies, we have a number of startup firms there. Just to highlight a couple of these, Gliknik was co-founded by Scott Strome in the medical school. In addition to developing his technologies, they’ve raised $50 million to develop Dr. Strome’s technologies. They are also funding research in three other departments in the University, both in the medical school as well as the pharmacy school.

PathSensors — a company in the BioPark that started off being unrelated to the University — has recently won a state grant and partnership with a faculty member of the University. Advanced Metrics is a startup company coming out of our Department of Psychiatry. Ocular Proteomics — people there now have faculty appointments in the University. There are increasing numbers of collaborations there.
We also have what are called contract research organizations. Actually, this is where some of our biggest collaborations have come in. Paragon Bioservices has 125-130 workers in the BioPark and they’re looking to double that over the next two years. They have teamed up with the University to apply for a number of federal grants including about two years ago we won a $15 million grant with the Department of Defense. Paragon has a GNP biomanufacturing facility probably about the size of this room, which cost millions and millions of dollars. By teaming up with University faculty, we are getting access to that and we’re also winning federal funds.

SNBL is another example. They have a 96-bed clinical trial unit. The Center for Vaccine Development in the medical school has run over a dozen NIH-funded clinical trials there. Those clinical trials have brought in over $50 million to the University. A local benefactor, John Hussman in Howard County, created the Hussman Institute for Autism. They’re in the process of recruiting 20 top researchers from around the country. Half a dozen of those researchers already have joint appointments at the University and now are applying for federal grants with us.

We have also been fortunate to have private developers who have invested a tremendous amount of money. We’ve got a great building going up across the street (HSF III) and you sort of think of the 10-year process of getting money from the legislature to do that, which is great when they give it to us. Here we have had comparable amounts or even more money invested by the private sector in helping to build the BioPark. So Wexford has invested $140 million and they plan to invest another $110 million.

The Maryland Proton Treatment Center is a $200 million facility. Bill Regine, chair of Department of Radiation Oncology, has already applied for well over $100 million in federal grants. So, we’re getting the private sector to invest in the community but it’s also helping us to expand our research activities.

Going beyond the BioPark – corporate-funded research represents just under 10 percent of the total funding that we have at the University. We added about $10 million in corporate funding in FY14. One of the ways we’ve done that is our Center for Clinical Trials has been very busy negotiating master agreements with private companies. We have over 30 master agreements. By having a master agreement with the company means that when there’s a new research project with them we don’t have to negotiate a new agreement.

I’d like to emphasize Medimmune a little bit. Part of what we’re trying to do is have more strategic relationships. If you go back just two years ago, Medimmune sponsored only $100,000 of research at the University. In FY14, it was over $800,000. They’ve committed to spending a minimum of $6.5 million over five years. We’re already on a path to be substantially more than that. Some of the initial projects that they’ve selected and we’re working on, Bob Ernst in the School of Dentistry, working with Dave Goodlett here in pharmacy. We also have a very exciting project with Sunjay Kaushal and the School of Medicine.

One of the ways that we’ve started to reach out more strategically to companies is by having industry liaisons, people from industry who are teaming with our faculty to develop these types of relationships. Thanks to a referral from the School of Medicine we have a former vice president from Bristol Meyers Squibb who’s working with us to make this happen.

Allow me to provide a couple examples of the impact we are having. Some 3 million to 5 million people a year get cholera. Over 100,000 people are still dying of cholera. That incidence is increasing unfortunately. It’s very prone to very severe epidemics. When there was the earthquake in Haiti, you had a big ballooning of cholera there. Right now there’s no vaccine in the U.S. and the other vaccines that exist in the world take two doses. If you think back to Haiti, our University was great and responded. We had a bunch of people from Shock Trauma who went down there. They were unprotected from cholera. So in the U.S., we think of first responders, military troops, also travelers. We have a bunch of people from this University going to areas around the world that are prone to cholera.
Coming out of the Center for Vaccine Development we have a cholera vaccine that has just completed phase three clinical trials and they are submitting an official request to the FDA for the approval to sell this. It would be the first vaccine approved in the U.S. and it would be a single dose. We hope within the next 12 months that this will be on the market.

Tokai is one of our more high-profile startup or early-stage companies. It is developing a drug to treat prostate cancer. Treatments for prostate cancer have improved but still one out of 36 men will die of prostate cancer. One out of seven will get it. Tokai has completed phase two clinical trials. They have raised $150 million, $98 million of that just a couple months ago through an IPO. We hope that in the next several years they will have a new drug to treat prostate cancer on the market that was invented here at the School of Medicine.

These are a couple of the newer deals we’ve done. Close to 7 million people in the U.S. suffer from mitral valve regurgitation when a heart valve is not working properly. In order to fix that right now you need open heart surgery. It’s cracking open the chest, going on a heart bypass machine, shutting down the heart, and it’s a three- to six-hour surgery. You’re in the hospital for a week, you’re out of commission for a month. Because it’s such a dramatic surgery a large percentage of people who would benefit from the surgery aren’t getting it.

So, Jim Gammie in the School of Medicine has developed a device that would result in minimally invasive surgery that would take less than an hour. You’re not breaking open the chest, there’s no bypass, the heart continues to beat, and you’re out of the hospital in a couple of days — dramatically decreasing the cost of the surgery, decreasing how traumatic it is and also increasing the number of people who would be eligible for it. This device is going to be in clinical trials in the next couple of months in Europe. We hope it will be available for patients in the U.S. within the next several years.

Also developed out of the Department of Surgery, by Bart Griffith, is looking at a way of dealing with lung deaths. Actually, over 200,000 lung deaths, and these are non-cancer in the U.S. Right now their treatments are very, very limited. Usually, it is putting them on a ventilator, which is very rough on the lungs. There’s a chance of stroke and infection and it’s also very expensive. What Dr. Griffith has developed is a very portable device similar to pulling a suitcase at the airport. This might not seem to be ideal but it certainly beats being tied down to a hospital bed in the ICU. So, early stage. We’ve got a ways to go with this one but are getting very good traction.

And you don’t need to be working in a lab or working as a surgeon to come up with an idea. We had a group of people in the Department of Diagnostic Radiology dealing with a whole bunch of software issues. You have multiple information management programs and they don’t talk with one another and you’ve got data in one system and other data in another. So the group in radiology put together essentially an overlay that pulled information from all these different systems. They have built a company around that. We all come up with these back doors and these fixes that aren’t done with the existing software programs. They found people at universities all across the country are doing this. They have now created a consortium, AI Bridge, Analytical Informatics, that’s similar to an app store.

The ideas for some of these inventions can come pretty much from anywhere. I think anybody in this room if they thought about it have something that potentially could make it to the market.

We have about 165 active licenses out there in the market. I have highlighted about half a dozen or so. We have had a huge increase over the last several years. Phil Robilotto is here. He came on about three years ago. Dr. Perman supported our office about three or four years ago so we’ve been able to build up the staff. We’ve had a big increase in invention disclosures. This is faculty, staff, or students saying I’ve got an idea that might be something. Then licenses are when we sift through all those ideas and then we take them to a private company and license them. We’ve had very good increase over the last couple of years.

Let me just touch on that process. We start with the invention. The first thing we do is a technology assessment. We look at is that patentable? Does it have good, strong science? Is there a market for it? We sift through those three areas and we decide what to do next. Typically, we’ll file an initial patent protection on that.

We also start marketing, going out and identifying those companies most likely to have an interest in that technology and we start contacting them. But a big part of it is the technology development. So as neat as your idea might be at that early stage it’s probably not quite where it needs to be for a company to leap in and invest millions of dollars to develop it. So, we spend a fair amount of time focusing on the technology development.

Hopefully, if we’re all successful, we have a technology license. This probably happens about a third of the time with the ideas that come in.
Final slide. We have been focusing a lot of attention on building up our relationship with College Park and both the entrepreneurial programs that they have within their business school and their engineering school but also, I think much more significantly, looking at the research expertise they have. So we’ve got great programs in genomics. They have great computer sciences. Bringing those together. We have great uses of physics with radiation therapy or radiology. They have a wonderful physics department. Bioengineering, brain science, big new initiative focusing on sports medicine. We’ve got the medicine, they have the sports. We have people at both campuses. We call them site miners who are working together to make those connections between the faculty.

There are a lot of great ideas out there. We’re probably just scratching the surface. If you could help us to spread the word on the opportunities out there we would greatly appreciate it.

**Dr. Perman:** Thank you, Jim. Look, why do we do all this? Why do we concern ourselves with making the Westside of downtown revitalized, working with our communities to the west, having the dynamic BioPark? We do it because this University is obligated to do it but it also ensures our future as a great place to work, an exciting place to be, an institution on the move. That’s why I want you to have this information. Are there questions or comments for Mr. Hughes?

**Question:** Before I came to the School of Nursing last semester I was involved with a startup in Annapolis. We had a medical device. We were funded to about $3.5 million so the Harpoon Medical example with Dr. Gammie caught my eye. I’m curious to know, where will the next $100 million come from to make Harpoon successful? I’m new to the UM Ventures idea and also do you ever take outside inventions in-house and bring them to the next level?

**Mr. Hughes:** The money comes from the private sector. The state and the University can put a little money in initially, but that caps out pretty quickly. Harpoon has raised $3.6 million, similar to the startup that you were involved in. Of that, $100,000 came from the University and the majority of it came externally. Then it’s really relying on the private sector to get to the next stage.

**Question:** I’m from the Center for Translational Medicine at the School of Pharmacy. It might be interesting to find out what private industry is interested in sponsoring and to have some kind of forum where we could invite industry leaders as well as venture capitalists to the table and meet with people on campus who have ideas.

**Dr. Perman:** That sounds like an excellent idea. Jim, we’ve done a little of that but we probably could do more.

**Mr. Hughes:** We certainly would be eager to work with you to help highlight what you’re doing to other companies.

**Dr. Perman:** I think industry, based on travels that Jim and I have had, would be very eager to come and interact face to face. It was one of the reasons I wrote that op-ed for *The Sun*. We need to do much more with these opportunities, much more with these partnerships. As you know, the climate in the state is right for this as well. So, thank you for your suggestion.

Let me pick on Chief Williams for a minute. How do you think things are going, sir?

**Police Chief Antonio Williams:** Actually, we do have good news because all of us certainly had some serious safety concerns about last year. As you know, we put some things in place to try to mitigate those incidents and certainly help everyone feel safer. I thank you all because we’ve gotten a lot of excellent feedback about the services that we’ve been providing. Last year at this time, we already had four robberies. This year we had one. We will strive to keep that up.
PETER MURRAY, CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER AND VICE PRESIDENT:
Just to follow up on security, I’d like to talk about information security and information security awareness. You may know that there are millions of attempts made every day to get unauthorized access to our network and to your machine. There is evidence of greater security awareness at UMB, since our records indicate fewer incidents of individuals clicking on links in emails sent by people they don’t know, and giving out their username and password. I would like to thank you for being diligent and careful, and for your help in protecting our University data. We really appreciate your efforts with information security. Thank you very much.

QUESTION:
I thought a lot more hands would have went up by now. I’ll go ahead and break the ice. First of all, the University needs to be commended for trying to deal with the first set of state cuts, by dealing with the hiring freeze and the deferred maintenance. That’s very honorable. Some of those cuts still found their way to our departments. I’m wondering if you wouldn’t mind commenting on the governor’s proposed claw-back of the COLA?

DR. PERMAN:
Thank you for the question and for the points about how we’re dealing with this here. But let me first say that I want to make sure that everybody understands that there’s the balance of this year and then there is the governor’s proposed budget for next year. One of the reasons that we made the decisions we made, namely dealing with hiring, dealing with deferred maintenance, none of which is pleasant in itself, is that other solutions would be one-time solutions and wouldn’t get us on the path of the hard work we need to do to meet the challenges of July. So, I appreciate the comments about what we’ve decided to do for this year. They really are intended to get us on the path to an expense base that positions us better for next year.

As for the claw-back, for anyone who doesn’t know, there is a proposal that the 2 percent cost of living adjustment, the COLA, which was placed in effect Jan. 1, be pulled back as of July 1. That is the governor’s proposal. It is under review by the attorney general to determine whether that can be done. That’s where the matter stands at this point.

QUESTION:
What else are we doing to try to put ourselves in a better budget situation?

DR. PERMAN:
What we are doing at this point is planning. In my State of the University speech last April I announced an intent to form a group led by Pete Gilbert, our chief operating officer, to try to take out over the ensuing several years $20 million in expenses. That group has been working diligently, talking as a team of leaders to their folks in each area. So, I would rather not have been challenged by a $6.9 million cut to this campus for this year. We won’t know for sure until we know what’s going to happen with the COLA, but we’re estimating an additional 3.5 million cut for this University as of July 1. We’re working as a team to decide where we can take out expense. We will get through whatever is ahead of us.

We may need to do some selective reductions in force. We may need to do things that are as straightforward as not spending the state dollars for what have been appropriate expenditures for food and everything in between. I am confident that we can deal as a family and as leadership together in making these numbers. As you heard from Mr. Hughes, we are not intending to retreat, we’re intending to move forward.
COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS & CULTURE

If there were any doubts about interest in UMB’s new Council for the Arts & Culture they were quickly dispelled when nearly 100 people nominated themselves for the handful of available slots on the council.

“We were overwhelmed by the response,” says Jennifer B. Litchman, MA, chief communications officer, vice president, and special assistant to the president, who chairs the Council for the Arts & Culture. “And when Dr. Perman met with the Faculty Senate, Executive Committee of the Staff Senate, and the University Student Government Association to discuss this before the nomination process, he received really, really positive feedback. It was a ‘gosh, we’ve been waiting for this’ type of response.”

The Council for the Arts & Culture is dedicated to enriching life on the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) campus and throughout the city by offering robust arts and culture programming — exhibiting artwork in UMB buildings and public spaces, arranging visits to museums and performing arts centers, hosting events for the campus community and city residents, all the while keeping in mind the dynamic relationship between the arts and sciences.

It is part of the strategic plan goal to “create a vibrant, dynamic University community.” A campuswide announcement on Dec. 16 introduced the Council for the Arts & Culture, but it had been in the works for more than six months.

“I was at a meeting at UMBC last summer and the discussion turned to how wonderful it would be if we could collaborate in a way that would bring UMBC’s robust arts programs to this campus,” Litchman recalls. “And I thought ‘wow, that would be great!’ And the more I thought about it, the more I loved the idea. And in addition to partnering with UMBC, what about MICA? What about The Peabody? The Hippodrome? Let’s form a council for the arts and see what we can do with it.”

So in June, there will be a UMB Night at Everyman Theatre with discount tickets for Noel Coward’s play Blithe Spirit. Many other ideas are in the works.

“When 5 o’clock comes, UMB becomes a graveyard,” Litchman says. “To create a more vibrant, dynamic University community means we have to do things differently. And if that means having activities and events after hours here on campus, let’s do it. Why go see a play in the suburbs when you can see one here?”

As the council’s first partner, UMBC (University of Maryland, Baltimore County) will bring its symphony orchestra to Westminster Hall for a free concert. UMBC’s Catalyst program will grow into a joint UMB-UMBC venture, with informal one-hour interdisciplinary presentations that fuse the performing and visual arts with other fields of investigation and scholarship. The events often serve as an incubator for future collaborations.

UMB’s commitment to its West Baltimore neighborhood is part of the council’s plans as well, with plans to expose local schoolchildren to the arts.

As council chair, Litchman has surrounded herself with a strong supporting cast.

The standing committee includes Priya Bhayana, director of the Bromo Tower Arts and Entertainment District; Kathy Schuetz, chief of staff of the University of Maryland Medical Center (UMMC); Olive Waxer, director of the Hippodrome Foundation; and UMB colleagues Angela Fowler-Young, MRP, (capital budget and planning); Nancy Gordon (protocol and special events); Larry Pitrof (Medical Alumni Association); Jane Shaab (economic development); M.J. Tooey, MLS, AHIP, FMLA, (Health Sciences and Human Services Library); and Ashley Valis, MSW, (community initiatives and engagement).

The rotating members of the council serving two-year terms include students Athena Balanou (nursing), Zach Kaminski (medicine), Carolyn Rosinsky (Graduate School), Lara Seidman (dentistry), Alexandra Silansksis (social work), Jennifer Smith (law), and SeJeong Yoon (pharmacy); faculty members Karen Kauffman, PhD, CRNP, RN, FAAN, (nursing), Robert Lavin, MD, (medicine), and Linda Simoni-Wastila, PhD, MSPH, (pharmacy); staff members Meghan Codey (academic affairs), Randy Jacobs (dentistry), Susan Krinsky, JD, MPH, (law), Lolly Forsythe-Chisolm (UMMC); and community member Cassandra Kapsos, a local digital artist/photographer.

“The council is a great cross-section of people with disparate interests,” Litchman says. “We didn’t want everyone to play an instrument or to have an acting background. We wanted people with great ideas and a commitment to the arts here at UMB and we have achieved that in a big way.”

Read more on the Council for the Arts & Culture.

— Chris Zang
Sanjay Uchil, MS, may not be known across campus. But the police safety signage he is responsible for soon will be on exit doors all over the University.

Uchil is applications development manager for the School of Medicine’s BIORESCO or Freezer Program, a storeroom where research labs go to get their supplies. A UMB employee since 1997, he proudly says “working with Carol McKissick and many other key people on this campus, we have taken this operation from a small departmental [biochemistry] stockroom to a campuswide operation.”

Now his “campuswide” project consists of small attractive signs that provide those leaving buildings with the emergency number for the UMB Police Force (410-706-3333) and the number for the police escort service (410-706-6882).

After the Safety Matters town halls in October, the UMB community was urged to offer ideas to enhance security. Many people responded, and Uchil’s idea was deemed among the best. He originally passed along his safety signage idea to McKissick, MBA, a staff senator, who urged him to submit it at SafetyQuestions@umaryland.edu. “Laura Kozak from Communications and Public Affairs [CPA] contacted me in response to that email,” Uchil says.

Now several months later, his concise summary of safety services and contact information near the entrances is becoming a reality. Mike Ruddock, director of branding communications in CPA, developed signage that adheres to building windows, doors, and walls. The two-sided adhesive surface is repositionable, durable, and weatherproof. Reasonably priced, the signs are fit for glass doors and non-glass doors.

“Many times when I have had to walk to the Saratoga Garage late in the evening, I have thought of calling the police escort van, but then I gave up on the idea, because I did not have the number,” Uchil says. “Having these decals posted on the doors will serve two purposes — 1. Always there when you need it, and 2. Gently encourage folks to use this service and avoid putting themselves in harm’s way.”

Uchil is thrilled and honored that his idea was acted upon. “I feel proud to be part of a community where worthwhile ideas do get promoted,” he says. “To me, it is more about the idea and less about the person.”

Do you have an idea to keep UMB safer? Visit the police contacts page then click on feedback and suggestions.

— Chris Zang