THE HOPE OF XENOTRANSPLANTATION

It can take decades to solve the most difficult medical problems — years of research and trials, creating and refining new technologies. But then, when it all comes together, when we’re able to take that big step forward, we can see new hope for thousands of patients.

In my long career as a transplant surgeon and now as president of the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB), transformational events in the field of transplantation have been few and far between. In January, we witnessed such an event — the transplantation of a pig heart into a human at the University of Maryland Medical Center (UMMC) by University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMSOM) transplant surgeons and scientists. (Read about the surgery at this link.)

This achievement has always been a goal for those of us in the field of transplantation. We knew it offered the promise to make organs more readily available, and available earlier in the course of a patient’s disease when the risk for complications is lower and the chances for success and a new life are better. But that goal was always out of reach, until now.

In the United States, on average 17 people die each day waiting for an organ, according to Organdonor.gov. There is an extreme shortage of available organs, limiting the possibility of a longer life for so many people. We in Maryland have now seen that xenotransplantation — successfully transplanting an organ from another species — is possible. When a group of devoted scientists, physicians, and care providers in an academic health center like UMB and UMMC partner with genetic engineers in a Maryland company and in a state that values innovation, those out-of-reach goals become achievable.

When I think back to my early days as a liver transplant surgeon in the 1980s, xenotransplantation was a pipe dream, and only human organs were available. My first liver failure patients were often at the end of their lives, simultaneously suffering from a variety of health problems. In fact, being critically ill was the ticket to getting these rare organs, and, not surprisingly, there was a high mortality because the odds were stacked against them. But yet when transplantation worked, it was transformational! I recall a young patient of mine in his 20s who was dying — he had little hope of surviving and no life ahead of him. He opted for a transplant — the only chance available — even though it carried a high mortality risk. He was in the hospital for weeks, and his recovery was slow and arduous. To my surprise and delight, I ran into him a decade later on an airplane. He recognized me and told me about his wonderful family and highly successful construction company. Talk about impact and the march of medical science!

But it is so much different now. Over time, we have refined liver transplantation. It has become the preferred treatment for many patients early in their disease course, and it has a very low
Continued from previous page

mortality rate. I have a friend in his 70s who recently received a new liver and left the hospital in only five days. What a remarkable achievement, and such a change from my early days in transplantation. This same story will now be repeated many times over in xenotransplantation, not just for hearts but for other organs as well, and I look forward to that future. With close to 110,000 people currently waiting for an organ transplant in the United States, I know I am not alone in that optimism.

But there is another very important aspect to this story. Xenotransplantation was made possible through science: from the discovery of DNA 70 years ago; to the field of molecular biology in the 1980s and Dolly, the first cloned sheep, a decade later; to the Human Genome Project in the 1990s; to CRISPR gene editing in the 2000s. These discoveries enabled genetic engineering, a capability requiring decades of work before transplantation could take advantage of it.

Science moves slowly sometimes and requires sustained research funding. It takes patience. But when science moves forward, great things can happen. And now that this has happened, our thinking and skills will advance, and we will find many ways to evolve this achievement into other great discoveries. UMB, UMSOM, and so many other medical and research institutions will continue the steady march of scientific innovation. I have no doubt that this new accomplishment has changed our horizon. We should all be proud of this visionary achievement.

Sincerely,

Bruce E. Jarrell, MD, FACS
PRESIDENT
LAURELS
FEBRUARY 2022

UNIVERSITYWIDE

Jonathan Bratt, MS, CEM, executive director, Office of Emergency Management, earned an American Red Cross Exemplary Service “Superman” Award for his dedication, commitment, and volunteer service as a board member of the American Red Cross of Central Maryland.

Christopher Stanton, MS, deputy director, Office of Emergency Management, earned a Bronze Medal of Valor and Certificate of Merit from the Prince George’s County Fire/Emergency Medical Services Department for “displaying zeal, ingenuity, quick thinking, and willingness to act to save a life during circumstances of unusual personal risk.”

Karen Gordes, PhD, PT, DSc, associate professor, Graduate School; Linda Horn, PT, DScPT, MHS, assistant professor, School of Medicine (UMSOM); Norman Retener, MD, assistant professor, UMSOM; and Mei Ching Lee, PhD, MS, RN, assistant professor, School of Nursing, won best poster in the simulation-interprofessional education category of the 2021 Virtual Poster Fair hosted by the Interprofessional Education Collaborative for “The Triangulation of IPE, Simulation, and Telehealth in Health Professions Education: A Pilot Study.”

Christopher Stanton

SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY

John F. Caccamese Jr., MD, DMD, FACS, clinical professor and vice chair, Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, was elected president-elect of the American Cleft Palate-Craniofacial Association and will assume the role in 2023.

Gary D. Hack, DDS, clinical associate professor, Department of Advanced Oral Sciences and Therapeutics, had his abstract “Progress on Tooth Desensitization Based on NovaMin Bioglass” accepted for the 2022 International Association for Dental Research’s General Session and Exhibition scheduled for June. Hack also co-authored “Development, Maturation, and Growth of the Myodural Bridge Within the Posterior Atlanto-Axial Interspace in the Rat,” which was accepted for publication by the Journal of Morphology.

Karen Gordes, PhD, PT, DSc, clinical assistant professor, Department of Advanced Oral Sciences and Therapeutics (AOST); Oksana Mishler, RDH, MS, DHSc, clinical associate professor, AOST; and Thomas Oates, DMD, PhD, professor and chair, AOST, co-authored “Senior Dental Students’ Perceptions of Evidence-Based Dentistry,” which was published in the European Journal of Dental Education.

Eung-Kwon Pae, DDS, MSc, PhD, associate professor, Division of Orthodontics, Department of Orthodontics and Pediatric Dentistry, co-authored “Potential Mechanisms Underlying Hypoxia-Induced Diabetes in a Rodent Model: Implications for COVID-19,” which was published in Children.
GRADUATE SCHOOL

Jim Kucher, DPA, MBA, associate professor and director, MS in Health and Social Innovation Program, was the lead author of the book “Social Entrepreneurship — A Practice-Based Approach to Social Innovation,” which was published in January.

Michael Greenberger, JD, professor and founding director, Center for Health and Homeland Security, was quoted in “Supreme Court to Weigh Vaccine Requirements for the Workplace,” which was published in The Wall Street Journal on Jan. 6. Greenberger also was named to The Daily Record’s Inaugural Power 30 Higher Education List.

CAREY SCHOOL OF LAW

Anne-Marie Carstens, JD, assistant professor and director of lawyering, wrote “Copyright’s Deprivations,” which was published in Washington Law Review.

Deborah Eisenberg, JD, professor and associate dean, academic affairs, moderated the panel “Court-Based Restorative Justice: Hope or Hype?” at the Association of American Law Schools conference Jan. 6.

Michael Pinard, JD, professor and co-director, Clinical Law Program, and Maneka Sinha, JD, assistant professor and director, Criminal Defense Clinic, presented “Policing and Social Justice” at the University of Maryland School of Medicine’s Practice of Medicine 2 course Dec. 13.

Natalie Ram, JD, professor, was quoted in “It’s All Relatives,” which was published in The Nib on Dec. 13.

Markus Rauschecker, JD, cybersecurity program director, Center for Health and Homeland Security, was quoted in “Digital ID: Your Rights,” which was published on Washington, D.C., TV station WJLA’s website Dec. 13.

Max Stearns, JD, professor, was quoted in “The Supreme Court Faces a Voting Paradox,” which was published in The New York Times on Dec. 8.

Rena Steinzor, JD, professor, wrote “Mass Comments and the Revival of Apolitical Expertise,” which was published in “The Regulatory Review” blog sponsored by the University of Pennsylvania Law School.

The following is a select list. For all the SOM laurels, visit www.somnews.umaryland.edu.

Jason Adler, MD, clinical assistant professor, Department of Emergency Medicine, received a Rising Star Award from the Emergency Department Practice Management Association.

Jeffrey Rottman, MD, professor; Vincent See Jr., MD, associate professor; and Mark Vesely, MD, associate professor, all from the Department of Medicine, were named to Baltimore Magazine’s “Top Doctors” list for 2021.

Phuoc Tran, MD, PhD, professor, Department of Radiation Oncology, was among the co-authors of “BCG Invokes Superior STING-Mediated Innate Immune Response Over Radiotherapy in a Carcinogen Murine Model of Urothelial Cancer,” which was published online in the Journal of Pathology.

Marco Venniro, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology, was elected as an associate member of the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology (ACNP) by the Council of the ACNP.

Mike Winters, MD, professor, Department of Emergency Medicine, was among the guests of the “Critical Care Perspectives in Emergency Medicine” podcast episode “MIS-C in COVID-19.”

Christopher Welsh, MD, associate professor, Department of Psychiatry, and Sarah Kattakuzhy, MD, associate professor, Department of Medicine, were awarded a three-year, $150,000 grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration for “Addiction Workforce Expansion Through Buprenorphine Waiver Training and Longitudinal Interdisciplinary Education in Opioid Use Disorder.”

Kimberly Gordon-Achebe, MD, assistant professor, Department of Psychiatry, was selected to receive the 2022 Jeanne Spurlock, MD, Minority Fellowship Achievement Award presented by the American Psychiatric Association (APA) and the APA Foundation.

Thomas M. Scalea, MD, FACS, the Honorable Francis X. Kelly Distinguished Professor of Trauma Surgery and director, Program in Trauma, celebrated 25 years as the Physician-In-Chief of the R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center in January. Scalea also was named to Baltimore Magazine’s “Top Doctors” list for 2021.

Roger Stone, MD, MS, FACEP, FAAEM, clinical assistant professor, Department of Emergency Medicine, co-presented two lectures at the National Association of EMS Physicians’ Annual Meeting, held Jan. 13-15: “EMS System Surveillance and Dispatch: Using Data Retrieval Tools and Selected Variables to Adjust Response Resources to Common Dispatch Determinants” and “Working Code Is a Working Fire: A Universal Role of the Volunteer Fire Service to Enhance the Success of High-Performance CPT in Limited Resource Situations.”
SCHOOL OF NURSING

Joan Carpenter, PhD, CRNP, ACHPN, FPCN, assistant professor, co-authored “High-Quality Nursing Home and Palliative Care — One and the Same,” which was published in the January edition of the Journal of the American Medical Directors Association.

Erika Friedmann, PhD and associate dean for research, and Robyn Gilden, PhD ’10, MS ’01, RN, associate professor, co-authored “Indoor Air Quality Monitoring in Baltimore City, MD Head Start Centers,” which was published in the International Journal of Environmental Science and Technology.

Bridgitte Gourley, DNP ’08, FNP-BC, assistant professor and specialty

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

Kimberly Claey, PharmD, BCPS, associate professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, received a four-year, $4,200 contract from BioFire Diagnostics for “Research Collaboration Agreement.”

Ryan C. Costantino, PharmD, MS, BCPS, BCGP, CPHIMS, PhD student, Pharmaceutical Health Services Research program, received a 2022 Albert B. Prescott Pharmacy Leadership Award for Early-Career Leadership from the Pharmacy Education and Leadership Institute.

Lauren Hynicka, PharmD, associate professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, received a two-year, $885,247 contract from the Maryland Department of Health for “The HCV and High-Cost Low-Volume Medication Review Program.”

Abree Johnson, MS, MBA, director, Pharmaceutical Research Computing, received an 18-month, $479,551 contract from Merck for “Treatment Patterns and Outcomes of Bladder Cancer Patients in the U.S.”
Ebere Onukwugha, MS, PhD, associate professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research, and executive director, Pharmaceutical Research Computing, received a three-month, $54,250 contract from Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America for “Bias and Value Assessment Inputs.”

Magaly Rodriguez de Bittner, PharmD, BCPS, CDE, FAPhA, the Gyi Endowed Professor of Pharmapreneurship and associate dean of clinical services and practice transformation, received a one-year, $293,611 contract from Prince George’s County for “PreventionLink Program.”

Marc Taraban, PhD, research assistant professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, received a two-year, $60,000 contract from Sanofi Pasteur for “Workplan to Assess Feasibility of Water Proton NMR to Test Aluminum Adjuvants and Drug Products.”

Bruce Yu, PhD, professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, received a one-year, $600,047 grant from the University of Delaware for “Noninvasive Detection of Counterfeit and Substandard Vaccines and Biotherapeutics.”

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

Ebere Onukwugha, MS, PhD

Erin Barry-Dutro, administrative assistant I, Family Welfare Research and Training Group, was named UMB’s December 2021 Employee of the Month for her work developing and supporting trainings for social workers.

Margo Candelaria, PhD, research associate professor; Laura Latta, MHS, lead research project coordinator; Jenny Afkinich, PhD, lead research analyst; and Kate Sweeney, MSW, program director, were among the co-authors of “Maryland’s Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Equity Efforts,” which was published in the Journal of Ethnic & Cultural Diversity in Social Work.

Christabel Cheung, PhD, MSW, assistant professor, was among the co-authors of “Next Step for Global Adolescent and Young Adult Oncology: A Core Patient-Centered Outcome Set,” which was published in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute, and “A Thin Line Between Helpful and Harmful Internet Usage: Embodied Research on Internet Experiences Among Adolescent and Young Adult Cancer Patients,” which was published in the Journal of Adolescent and Young Adult Oncology.

Laurie Graham, PhD, assistant professor, was among the co-authors of “Intimate Partner Violence-Related Fatalities Among U.S. Youth Aged 0–24 Years, 2014–2018,” which was published in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine.

Bethany Lee, PhD, professor, and Michele Beaulieu, LCSW-C, clinical instructor, were among the co-authors of “Integrated Care: Training the Next Generation of Social Workers,” which was published in the Journal of Social Work Education.

Eunsong Park, PhD student, wrote “Effects of Individual Characteristics and Experiences on MSW Students’ Advocacy,” which was published in the Journal of Social Work Education.

Roderick Rose, PhD, assistant professor, co-authored “The Effect on High School Drop-Out of a Middle School Relevance Intervention,” which was published in the Journal of Educational Research.
UMBrella Symposium:
Retool and Refuel Your Career in the Post-Pandemic Era

This year’s event features a daylong symposium designed to help participants refocus on their career goals and aspirations. There will be two keynote speakers, breakout sessions, an awards presentation, and a stress-relieving mindfulness workshop.

MARCH 9, 2022
VIRTUAL | 8:45 A.M. - 3:30 P.M.

MORNING KEYNOTE
Tashni-Ann Dubroy, PhD, MBA
Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Howard University

AFTERNOON KEYNOTE
Gloria Mayfield Banks, MBA
Entrepreneur, International Speaker, and Motivational Success Strategist

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

“Imposter Syndrome: Confronting the Career Development Monster Hiding Under the Bed”
Ericka Boone, PhD
Acting Director, Division of Biomedical Research Workforce, National Institutes of Health

“Changing and Succeeding in the Same Breath”
Zu Dietzenbach, MBA, CCMP
Change Management Consultant and Leadership Coach; Owner, Change Management Consulting, LLC

“Heels of Power: Boosting Your Professional Presence and Influence”
Isabel Rambob, DDS
Assistant Professor, School of Dentistry; Founder, Rambob Training Services

“The Great Invitation: New Year, New You, and a New Job, Too!”
Sunday J. Jones, MBA, SPHR
Director, Employee and Labor Relations, UMB Human Resource Services

“Permission to Be Human: How to Create a Thriving People-First Culture, Starting with Yourself”
MaryBeth Hyland, MS
Speaker on Workplace Culture, Values, and Mindfulness; Founder, SparkVision

“AFTERNOON WORKSHOP

“Taking Care of YOU from the Inside Out: MoveMindfully for Mind, Body, and Heart”
Kathy Flaminio, LGSW, MSW
Founder and CEO, MoveMindfully

LEARN MORE AND REGISTER TO ATTEND AT
umaryland.edu/umbrella/whm2022
RED-LETTER DAYS: CURE SCHOLARS ACCEPTED TO COLLEGE

This time of year, high school seniors are eagerly waiting to hear from colleges hoping for a letter of acceptance. It is an exciting time for the students and their families. For the 20 seniors in the University of Maryland, Baltimore’s (UMB) CURE Scholars Program, it is particularly special. Each acceptance letter represents the culmination of nearly seven years of mentorship, academic enrichment, and dedication to their futures.

“It feels really great to be receiving all these college acceptances,” says Ayishat Yussuf, a scholar in Cohort 1 of the CURE program. “I honestly don’t know where I plan on attending yet because I have so many options to choose from.”

Launched in 2015, UMB CURE was the first National Cancer Institute Continuing Umbrella of Research Experiences (CURE) program in the country to engage with middle school students. The program has inspired its scholars to pursue lucrative careers in health care and science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) through mentorship and support beginning in sixth grade. The program follows the students through middle and high school with the goal of building a diverse health care, cancer research, and STEM workforce and alleviating medical and educational disparities.

This is a landmark year for the program as its first cohort of scholars, who began as sixth-graders, will be graduating from high school and heading off to college.

“Seeing the admission notices come in for the scholars makes me feel overjoyed,” says Ivan Lamas-Sanchez, MA, program manager for school success for UMB CURE. “I’m excited for the next chapter of their journey, and I’m excited for the scholars and their families to see their hard work, dedication, and commitment come to fruition.”

With the support of UMB CURE’s Career Navigator Program, which is geared specifically toward 11th- and 12th-grade students, the scholars had collectively applied to 76 colleges and been admitted to 42 as of late January. Yussuf had received 16 acceptance letters from colleges including North Carolina A&T State University and Spelman College, which are on her list of top choices, and Bowie State University, where she was offered a full-ride scholarship to attend.

“The acceptance that I am very excited about was North Carolina A&T,” Yussuf says of the HBCU (Historically Black College or University) in Greensboro, N.C. “I feel like I’m destined to go to an HBCU and thrive there. Also, the programs they have are amazing. Just being able to say that I got accepted to the school is honestly amazing.”

If she attends North Carolina A&T, Yussuf plans to major in child development on a pre-med track to fulfill her dream of becoming a pediatrician. Yussuf receiving an acceptance letter from one of her top schools also was a special moment for her mentor, Kat Coburn, an MD/PhD student at the University of Maryland School of Medicine. Coburn has been mentoring Yussuf since she started the program in 2015.

“I hope that my mentorship has helped instill confidence within her that she is capable of whatever she sets her mind to,” Coburn
Continued from previous page

says. “The next chapter of her academic career will be challenging, but she has the tools, hard work, and intellect to rise to the occasion. I’m very excited for her!”

UMB CURE’s Career Navigator Program also helps the scholars’ families prepare for the college transition with a parent success workshop series that introduces them to the nuances of higher education and walks them through the process of applying for scholarships and federal student aid. These workshops will help scholars and families better understand their financial award letters to make the best financially informed decision for fall 2022.

In addition to financial aid, UMB has been working to raise funds for the scholars’ tuition and other college expenses. The UMB Office of Philanthropy has raised $235,000 in scholarship funds from several donors including the Kathy and Jerry Wood Foundation and the Florence Nesh Charitable Foundation, which is managed by PNC Charitable Trusts. The Career Navigator Program is supported by generous seed and matching funds from the Edward St. John Foundation.

“IT feels really great to be receiving all these college acceptances. I honestly don’t know where I plan on attending yet because I have so many options to choose from.”

— Ayishat Yussuf, UMB CURE Scholar

Individuals who share a passion for inspiring students to pursue a future in STEM and health care can contribute any amount to UMB’s CURE College Scholarships Fund. The goal is to equip each scholar with a path to graduate from college and embark on a STEM, health care, or cancer research career unencumbered by massive student debt.

— Jena Frick

Contribute to UMB’s CURE College Scholarships Fund at this link.

“The UMB Pulse” podcast is a topic-driven show that shares interesting and engaging stories from around the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) and helps listeners stay up to date on key University events.

Moving forward, a new podcast episode will drop on the first Friday of each month.

FEBRUARY EPISODE

Workforce Development

GUESTS: Lisa Rawlings, MBA, director, workforce development and job readiness, Office of Community Engagement (OCE); Gemini Hanson-Barnes, community outreach worker, OCE.

Rawlings will discuss the UMB Community Engagement Center, how she helps people navigate the job market through the workforce program, what inspires her in her role, and how she landed at UMB. Hanson-Barnes will share her inspirational workplace development success story.

Learn more at umaryland.edu/pulse.
UMB SEES DECLINE IN CRIME AMID 2021 RETURN TO CAMPUS

As many faculty, staff, and students began returning to the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) in June 2021, the UMB Police Department (UMBPD) was poised to welcome them back. Nearly 200 UMBPD employees — including police officers, security officers, police communications operators, and administrative staff — work day and night to keep the UMB community safe.

“It’s important that we continue to build our community policing initiatives while continuously re-evaluating our patrol strategies,” said UMB Police Chief Thomas Leone, MSL. “These programs go hand in glove. You can’t have one without the other.”

In 2021, UMB experienced a 37 percent decrease in crime compared to 2019, when on-campus density was at similar levels. Thefts at UMB dropped by nearly half compared to 2019. Robberies declined consistently over the past three years. The only rise in crime since 2019 was for simple assaults, defined as an assault with no weapon and where the victim is not seriously injured.

In February 2021, UMBPD partnered with the University of Maryland Medical Center (UMMC) to provide a UMB police officer inside UMMC’s emergency room. This new post expanded the crime reporting area for UMBPD.

“Even though we’re reporting additional crime statistics for a new area, we’re still seeing our numbers go down overall,” Leone said. UMB command staff use Baltimore City crime statistics to continuously evaluate where police and security are needed most.

As workplaces across the country experience staffing shortages, UMBPD evaluates how to best use its limited resources. Community members may not see a security officer on every corner, but this data-driven policing strategy ensures that UMB police are in the right place at the right time to deter and prevent crime, with proven results.

UMBPD’s patrol strategy led to some questions in the 2021 Public Safety Survey. Responses indicated that police visibility is tied to feeling safe. Several respondents asked why UMB couldn’t post a security officer on every corner the way Johns Hopkins Medicine institutions do in East Baltimore.

“We want our community to feel safe, because perception is reality,” Leone said. “We also hope our community will look at the data. We’re an urban university and crime does occur, but we’re working hard to keep our crime low.” 2020 Clery Report crime data shows that UMB experienced 32 percent less crime than Johns Hopkins’ East Baltimore campus.
The decline in crime also is attributed in part to UMBPD’s partnership with the University of Maryland School of Social Work (UMSSW) that began in fall 2021. Two UMSSW interns joined the UMBPD Community Outreach and Support Team (COAST) to provide additional case management resources. COAST police officers also partner with the Baltimore Police Department’s Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion program to redirect vulnerable populations to treatment and services instead of arrest.

UMBPD’s community policing initiatives have been recognized in Maryland and across the world. In 2021, UMBPD received the prestigious International Association of Chiefs of Police/Walmart Leadership in Community Policing Award. The department also received the 2020 Maryland Chiefs of Police Association’s Exceptional Police Performance by a Unit Award and the 2021 Governor’s Award for Outstanding Proactive Crime Prevention Programs in Maryland for the UMBPD Training Division.

In 2021, UMBPD was reaccredited by the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement and reaccredited with excellence by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies. UMBPD is one of only two universities in the University System of Maryland with dual accreditation.

In the four months since being named chief of police, Leone has renewed the department’s commitment to UMB’s core values.

“Whether we’re training, engaging with our community, or just writing a report, I expect our UMBPD employees to provide excellent service to our community,” Leone said. “I am proud to serve as chief of this department, and I know we have good things coming in 2022.”

— Carin Morrell

Learn more about UMBPD’s services at this link.
SCHOOL OF NURSING WINS HEED AWARD FOR FOURTH YEAR IN A ROW

For the fourth consecutive year, the University of Maryland School of Nursing (UMSON) received a Health Professions Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) Award from INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine, the oldest and largest diversity-focused publication in higher education.

The HEED Award, now in its sixth year, recognizes colleges and universities that demonstrate an outstanding commitment to diversity and inclusion. UMSON was featured, along with 50 other recipients, in the magazine’s December 2021 issue.

“Diversity and inclusion is about all of us, and all of us figuring out how to walk through this learning and working environment together,” said Jeffrey Ash, EdD, assistant professor and associate dean for diversity and inclusion at UMSON. “Having attained four consecutive HEED Awards, we have made clear our intention of establishing an environment of inclusive excellence.

“However, our work is not about acquiring awards; in fact, they are meaningless without action. Success is not simply establishing a standard, but maintaining and continually building upon, challenging, and disrupting what was and growing the standard of excellence.”

University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) President Bruce E. Jarrell, MD, FACS, cheered the news of UMSON’s recognition.

“Being honored for four consecutive years is quite an achievement,” Jarrell said. “I am so proud of the School of Nursing and its programs, commitment, and focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion. Dean Jane Kirschling and everyone at the school who are leading these initiatives deserve our appreciation and our support as we work to create a more equitable and just UMB.”

The Health Professions HEED Award application is open to all accredited U.S. and Canadian health profession schools, including medical, dental, pharmacy, nursing, veterinary, and osteopathic medical schools. The award is the only national initiative that honors individual institutions for being outstanding examples of colleges, universities, or health profession schools that are committed to making diversity and inclusion a top priority across their campuses.

In announcing the winners, the magazine wrote, “As the U.S. prepares to enter its second year battling the COVID-19 pandemic, it is no secret that the health care workforce faces dire challenges. Staffing shortages persist across the sector, marginalized communities remain in need of accessible care, and diverse professionals continue to be underrepresented in nearly every field.

“Yet, there are higher education institutions working diligently to overcome each of these challenges and more. By devising innovative policies, dedicating needed resources, and committing to the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion, these schools are committed to ensuring that today’s health care students are knowledgeable about and reflect the diversity necessary to address health disparities as they move into their respective fields. … [The award recipients] stand as exemplars for other health professions schools and higher education institutions.”

The award’s rigorous application includes questions related to recruitment and retention of students and employees, continued leadership support for diversity, and other aspects of campus diversity and inclusion. The program recognizes institutions that weave diversity and inclusion into their everyday work. The school’s In UniSON anti-oppression position statement guides these daily efforts and interactions.

In its 2021 application, UMSON highlighted three areas of innovation: monthly communications to the school’s stakeholders about the Office of Diversity and Inclusion’s news and events; professional development offerings focused on increasing awareness and taking action against structural and systemic racism; and the development and launch of the anti-oppression statement.

“We want to acknowledge we are aware that barriers and challenges exist still; however, our work of inclusive excellence means that we will hold ourselves accountable in our message that no form of oppression is acceptable,” Ash said. “The In UniSON statement is a landmark that will guide our school’s diversity journey for decades to come, and we are very proud of that.”

— Laura Hager

Read the School of Nursing’s In UniSON statement at this link.
A generous gift of $800,000 from Stuart Salsbury, JD ’71, and Suzanne Salsbury, JD ’73, is giving a big boost to opportunities for students at the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law in the area of trial advocacy.

The longtime law school supporters have endowed a new position — the Salsbury Director of Trial Advocacy — to manage Maryland Carey Law’s trial team program, which allows students to hone their courtroom skills in competitions across the country. The law school also will establish the Salsbury Trial Competition, an internal event that will provide a platform for students to test and exhibit their advocacy skills.

“We are deeply grateful to Stuart and Suzanne Salsbury for their incredible commitment to Maryland Carey Law,” said Maryland Carey Law Dean Donald B. Tobin, JD. “This gift ensures the sustainability and strength of our trial team for generations of students to come.”

The Salsburys attended the law school in the early 1970s, thrived in the moot court program, but missed the chance to be on a trial team. By the time their son, Ben Salsbury, JD ’07, was a first-year law student, the National Trial Team was well established, having started in the late 1990s with the help of alumni who volunteered to coach and travel with the students. Ben became one of the team’s stars along with his future wife, Rebecca Salsbury, JD ’08, and celebrated a national championship in his final year.

Despite its success, the team had challenges with funding, and, in 2007, Stuart and Suzanne Salsbury established an endowment to help offset students’ travel expenses and tournament fees. Since his graduation, Ben Salsbury has volunteered countless hours to coach and co-direct the team. That experience reinforced his view that the trial team needed a permanent director to make the program one of the best in the country. His vision aligned with his parents’ philanthropic priorities, and they decided to endow the position.

The Salsburys believe that Ben’s experience on the trial team was invaluable preparation as he grew into his own litigation career. In 2015, Ben and fellow alumnus Kevin Sullivan, JD ’03, co-founded Salsbury Sullivan, LLC, a boutique litigation firm in downtown Baltimore. Stuart Salsbury, who signed on to contribute his experience at Salsbury Sullivan in 2016, said, “I saw what trial advocacy did for Ben. … I have always felt that trial advocacy is one of the most important parts of what you should be doing in law school.”

Maryland Carey Law’s inaugural Salsbury Director of Trial Advocacy is Ben Garmoe, JD ’16, who had been the team’s part-time managing director. In 2021, Garmoe led the University of Maryland, Baltimore County’s mock trial team over Yale University to win the American Mock Trial Association national championship for the first time in program history.

A former captain of the Maryland Carey Law trial team, Garmoe is thrilled to be back with the team full-time, calling the newly endowed position his “dream job” and adding, “I am incredibly grateful because this school meant so much to me. To get to walk here every day and do this job, I can’t imagine anything better.”

In recognition of the Salsburys’ generosity, Maryland Carey Law also intends to create the Salsbury Trial Competition, an annual event similar to the longtime Myerowitz Moot Court Competition in which students present briefs and oral arguments before local judges and vie for seats on the Maryland Carey Law Moot Court Board. Members of the trial team, which is a for-credit student organization, are selected through a rigorous two-round tryout process. The competition likely will become integrated into that process.

— Wanda Haskel

Read more about the Salsburys’ donation at this link.