

School of Medicine Dean's Newsletter



**CREIGHTON
UNIVERSITY**

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SIGNS OF THE SEASON

The signs of the fall season are all around us. Thanksgiving is nearing and we have many reasons to be thankful. Our faculty has continued outstanding productivity despite uncertainties in medicine and the stress those uncertainties create. Our alumni have supported the school at a level never before achieved despite changes in their professional lives. Our students continue to perform up to their high potential despite their questions about the future. And our staff remains loyal despite having to work harder as we become more efficient in our daily activities.

The oncoming winter reminds us of challenges we face in a difficult season. We are undertaking one of the most important activities in the life of a medical school: a self-study to prepare for an accreditation visit in February 1997. This self-study will consume much of our energy in the next year to assure success for the years beyond.

Medicare reform will create additional challenges. If the U.S. Senate version of reform is adopted, support for medical schools, hospitals and graduate medical education programs will be decreased. These cuts may amount to as much as 17 percent of the school's annual budget. We recognize the need for change, but we hope that our nation's leaders will recognize the need to train high quality physicians and the costs associated with that training. The U.S. House version of reform seems to better accommodate the needs connected to medical education. So we pray for the best as we strategize for the worst scenario.

As always, we welcome your comments and suggestions and appreciate your support. I believe the great gifts for which we are so thankful will help us address the challenges we face.


Thomas J. Cinque, M.D.
Dean, School of Medicine

SCHOOL SEES RECORD YEAR OF RESEARCH FUNDING

The School received a record dollar amount in grants during 1994-95, netting nearly \$13 million in research funds. The School also saw 81 percent of the grant proposals submitted result in funding. That percentage is the highest return compared to the previous three fiscal years. Some of the departments that received sizable grants were:

Medicine	\$4,774,314	Pharmacology	\$590,414
Biomedical sciences	\$3,124,455	Microbiology	\$542,335
Preventive medicine	\$947,434	Cancer center	\$522,177
Pediatrics	\$775,118	Family practice	\$507,570
Surgery	\$650,429		

CMA HOLDS MEETING, ELECTS PRESIDENT

Creighton Medical Associates held its first of what will be annual meetings, where Dr. Claire Hunter, a cardiologist at Creighton, was presented as the newly elected president of the organization. Dr. Hunter will also serve as associate dean of clinical affairs.

CMA is the University's faculty practice. The board that elected Dr. Hunter is composed of participating physicians.

Goals discussed at the meeting include expanding CMA's primary care practices into the southwest and northwest areas of Omaha as well as in some rural areas; working with St. Joseph Hospital in approaching various insurance companies to be included in provider networks; and combining CMA and Heartland to ensure clear identification.

"Through CMA the School of Medicine is anticipating the changing health care environment, rather than reacting to it," said Dr. Thomas Cinque, dean of the School. "This effort will help ensure the continued success of the medical school."

PURTILO BECOMES CENTER DIRECTOR

Dr. Ruth Purtilo has accepted the position of director of the Center for Health Policy and Ethics. She has served as interim director since earlier this year. Purtilo, who joined the Center's faculty in 1991 as a professor of clinical ethics, served on the Clinton Health Care Task Force in the spring of 1993.

Before coming to Creighton, Purtilo was the Henry Knox Sherrill Professor of Medical Ethics at the MGH Institute of Health Professions and ethicist-in-residence at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. She received a Ph.D. in Ethics from Harvard University in 1979.

ALUMNUS RECOGNIZED

The School of Medicine recently hosted its annual reunion banquet, where dermatologist Dr. Richard Q. Crotty was honored with the Alumni Merit Award. Dr. Crotty received his bachelor's degree in medicine from Creighton in 1946 and his doctor of medicine degree in 1947. He serves as clinical professor of dermatology at Creighton and has a private practice.

Dr. Crotty is past president of the Omaha Midwest Clinical Society, the National Dermatological Society, the Greater Omaha Medical Society and the Douglas County Medical Society.

INCOMING CLASS POSTS RECORD GPAs, MCAT SCORES

This year's entering class in the Creighton School of Medicine has the highest aggregate grade-point average and MCAT score of any freshman class at the School in the last 10 years.

The aggregate cumulative grade-point average of the 112-member class was 3.63. Their aggregate MCAT score was 9.05.

There were 9,072 applicants this year — the second-highest applicant pool in the School's history. Of those applicants, 455 were interviewed and 112 matriculated.

Thirty members of the entering class completed their undergraduate degrees at Creighton.

California is the most represented state, with 24 matriculants. Nebraska is next with 18. The entering class also includes students from the former Czechoslovakia, Poland and Panama.

Here's a snapshot of Creighton's entering class of medical students and how it compares with previous classes.

	1995	1994	1993	1992	1991
Number of applications	9,072	9,311	7,415	5,887	5,223
Number enrolled	112	112	114	112	119
Number of men enrolled	78	78	69	76	80
Number of women enrolled	34	34	45	36	39
Average GPA	3.63	3.5	3.48	3.41	3.40

Drs. W. Eugene and Christine C. Sanders, professors of medical microbiology and directors of the Center for Research in Anti-Infectives and Biotechnology, were invited lecturers at universities and medical centers throughout Belgium earlier this year. They discussed recent developments in resistance to antibiotics, their research in mechanisms and epidemiology of resistance, and diseases borne by the sea and sea creatures.

Dr. Patricia Thorpe, associate professor of radiology and surgery, was named chapter president of the Nebraska Radiologic Society for the 1995-96 academic year.

Dr. Roderick Nairn, chair and professor of medical microbiology and immunology, will serve on the American Cancer Society's Scientific Advisory Committee on Personnel. Dr. Nairn also will serve as program chair of the Sixth Educational Strategies Workshop of the Association of Medical School Microbiology and Immunology Chairs.



Dr. Thomas Quinn, associate professor of biomedical sciences, conducted a recent seminar on the anatomy of head and neck injury for the Association of Trial Lawyers of America and the Colorado Trial Lawyers Association at Steamboat Springs, Colo.

Dr. Kenneth Thomson, assistant professor of medical microbiology, became chair of the Antimicrobial Chemotherapy Division of the American Society of Microbiology.

Dr. Lisa Gobar, assistant professor of radiology and section head of nuclear medicine, was elected for a two-year term to the Executive Council of the Missouri Valley Chapter of the Society of Nuclear Medicine.

CMA SOUTHWEST, EMG LAB OPEN

Creighton Medical Associates has opened a new clinic at 110th and Q streets. CMA Southwest has physicians in internal medicine, Drs. Sheila McGreevy and Joann Derby, and in obstetrics/gynecology, Drs. Kiyoshi Kim and Thomas VanGeem. In addition, Dr. Christopher Huerter, a dermatologist, will move to the new clinic. Pediatric services will be added in the spring.

Dr. Bernadette Hughes, assistant professor of neurology, has established a neurodiagnostic center and EMG (electromyogram) laboratory at 8601 Dodge where she will conduct neurology consultations.

UNIVERSITY GUARANTEES PROFESSIONAL ADMISSION

Creighton University has established a guaranteed admissions policy to the Schools of Medicine, Dentistry and Law for graduates of Creighton undergraduate programs who are 1996 freshman and meet certain requirements.

Undergraduates planning to enter the medical school must graduate in good standing and must maintain a ~~minimum~~ 3.5 grade point average. They will not be required to take the MCAT. They may be admitted to the School at the end of their junior year to start after they graduate. The policy, effective only for 1996 freshmen, is designed to build upon the preferential admissions policy the University has always had for Creighton undergraduate students.

Charles Dougherty, vice president for academic affairs, said he intended to continue the program, but it may need some "fine tuning" after its first year.

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