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### Message From The Dean

#### Focus on Residents

By [Cam E. Enarson, M.D., M.B.A.](#),  
Dean, Creighton School of Medicine  
Vice President for Health Sciences

The beginning of a new academic year is a good time to highlight a critical component of our educational mission – graduate medical education.

The Creighton University School of Medicine sponsors eight residency programs and 10 fellowship programs and shares several programs with the University of Nebraska Medical Center. We have 212 house staff physicians participating in these programs.

Over the past several years, we have focused on the competency areas outlined by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education's (ACGME) Outcome Project. These six ACGME competencies are patient care, medical knowledge, practice-based learning and improvement, interpersonal and communication skills, professionalism, and systems-based practice.

The ACGME Project impacts two fundamental aspects of resident training by:

- Broadening the required content of physician education by adopting six general competencies, including new categories of systems-based practice and practice-based learning and improvement.
- Shifting accreditation standards to focus on outcomes and



assessment of learners using competency-focused evaluation tools.

Creighton is now in stage three of this four-phase process. Phase three calls for “full integration of the competencies and their assessment with learning and clinical care.”

We also recognize that residents play an important role in the teaching our medical students – in small groups, in clinics, and in wards. Our GME programs are helping residents develop their teaching skills with programs at the institutional and departmental levels.

The School of Medicine is very fortunate to have a strong GME staff. I want to personally thank Dr. Cecile Marie Zielinski, Dr. Robin Graham, Angie Alberico and Mary Kay Waltz for their dedication to our educational mission.



**Dr. Graham, Alberico, Dr. Zielinski and Waltz.**

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## **Graduate Medical Education**

### **New Residents Getting Rave Reviews**

By [Cecile Marie Zielinski, M.D., F.A.C.S.](#)

*Associate Dean for Graduate Medical Education*

Diverse. That’s the best way to describe the School of Medicine’s new 2006 residents.

In July, we welcomed 57 individuals to eight Creighton-sponsored residency programs in family medicine, internal medicine, medicine/pediatrics,



obstetrics-gynecology, pathology, psychiatry, radiology and surgery.



Thirty-seven percent (21 residents) are Creighton University graduates, 14 percent (8 residents) are from other U.S. medical schools, and 49 percent (28 residents) are international students. Women account for 42 percent of the 2006 residents.

A month into their residencies, the class of 2006 is getting rave reviews. Academically, this is one of our best groups in a long time. These residents are well-rounded – not only intellectually, but in their ability to communicate and interact with patients, faculty and others.

Internally, the School of Medicine is taking new and innovative steps to help ensure that our residents are prepared to hit the ground running and continue to grow.

Reflective of a national trend, the number of international residents at the medical school has grown dramatically in recent years. This shift has created special challenges as international residents adapt to the English language, our culture, and U.S. medical practices and protocols.

For a third consecutive year, the Department of Internal Medicine – the medical school's largest residency program – has held a two-week transitional curriculum to help international students acclimate to their new surroundings. Creighton was cited for these efforts at the Association of American Medical College's annual spring meeting.

We are taking additional steps as well to give residents forums for sharing feedback about their experiences, both positive and negative. Residents now have the opportunity to attend monthly lunches with hospital administrators to discuss a different topic each month. Graduate Medical Education also holds monthly dinners with house staff physicians to meet and talk.

Our ultimate goal is to produce physicians who are ready to meet the increasingly complex health care needs of Americans on a human as well as a clinical level.

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## Appointments

### **Recker Appointed Associate Dean for Research**

Robert R. Recker, M.D., professor of medicine and director of Creighton University's Osteoporosis Research Center (ORC), has been named associate dean for research in the School of Medicine.



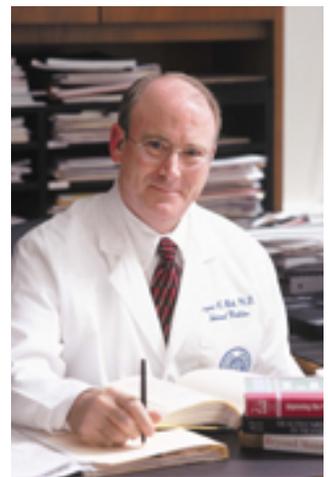
Recker is an internationally recognized expert in the field of metabolic bone disease. A 1963 graduate of Creighton's School of Medicine, he has served on the school's faculty since 1970 and as head of the ORC since 1973.

He is a master in the American College of Physicians and fellow in the American College of Endocrinology. He is past governor of the Nebraska Chapter of the American College of Physicians and past president of the American Society for Bone and Mineral Research.

Recker also serves on the Scientific Advisory Board of the National Osteoporosis Foundation and chairs its Research Grants Subcommittee. His list of professional publications includes more than 250 original papers, chapters, and monographs that deal with calcium physiology, metabolic bone disease, bone histomorphometry, prevention and treatment of osteoporosis, adaptation of bone to loading, and, more recently, the genetics of bone mass.

### **Rich Awarded Fellowship**

Eugene C. Rich, M.D., former chair of the Creighton University Department of Internal Medicine, has been awarded a prestigious Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health Policy Fellowship.



Rich is one of only seven persons nationwide selected to participate in the fellowship program in 2006. The Robert Wood Johnson Health Policy Fellowship provides midcareer health professionals and behavioral and social scientists with an opportunity to experience and directly participate in the formulation of federal health policies.

Rich will live in Washington, D.C., for 12 months, beginning in September, and work with key executive branch officials responsible for health policy and programs or with members of Congress and their staffs. Fellows also participate in seminars designed to increase their knowledge in such areas as current priorities in federal health policy, health economics, and the congressional budget process. Following the one-year experience, fellows return to their home institutions or practices to assume leadership roles in improving health policy and management.

John A. Hurley, M.D., is serving as interim department chair.

### **Goering Named Microbiology/Immunology Chair**

Richard V. Goering, Ph.D., professor in the Department of Medical Microbiology and Immunology, has been named chairperson of that department.



Goering earned his doctorate from Iowa State University. He joined Creighton's School of Medicine in 1975 as an assistant professor.

Goering serves as a reviewer and editorial board member of numerous journals related to microbiology and infectious disease. In addition, he is the only American author of the Mims Medical Microbiology textbook. Co-authored by colleagues in the United Kingdom, the book has been translated into several languages and used by medical students worldwide.

His research efforts have focused primarily on the use of molecular approaches to the epidemiological analysis of problem pathogens, including *Staphylococcus aureus*. His current research centers on the use of DNA sequence-based approaches to the identification and tracking of pathogens – an area that the National Institutes of Health has identified as particularly important in the prevention of bioterrorism.

### **Murray Appointed Pharmacology Chair**

Thomas F. Murray, Ph.D., has been appointed chairperson of the Department of Pharmacology.



Murray comes to Creighton from the University of Georgia, where he was a distinguished research professor and

headed the Department of Physiology and Pharmacology of the College of Veterinary Medicine.



Prior to his position at the University of Georgia, Murray served for 14 years on the faculty of the College of Pharmacy at Oregon State University. Active in research, he has published in more than 130 peer-reviewed publications in the areas of molecular neuropharmacology, neurotoxicology and signal transduction.

He currently serves on the National Institutes of Health NIDA-K Training and Career Development Review Committee and is the editor of Critical Reviews in Neurobiology.

Murray earned his doctoral degree in pharmacology from the University of Washington School of Medicine, Seattle.

### **Clark Named Public Relations Coordinator**

Kathryn Clark has been named public relations coordinator (health sciences) for Creighton's Department of Marketing and Public Relations.

Clark, who holds English and journalism degrees from the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, began her career in public relations at Creighton University as health sciences news editor, 1985-89. She also has served as assistant news director/science writer, Dartmouth College; news director, University of Kansas, Lawrence; and Nebraska communications director, American Heart Association.

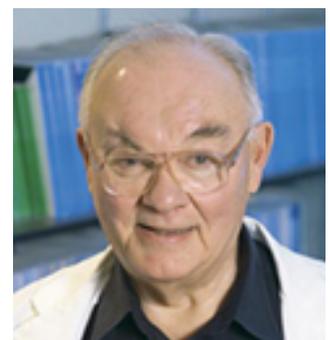
She is a member of the National Association of Science Writers and the Omaha Metropolitan Medical Response System's communications committee.

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## **In the News**

### **Lynch Joins Family for Las Vegas Reunion**

The work of Henry Lynch, M.D., director of Creighton's Hereditary Cancer Center, made national news when a family reunited in Las Vegas over the Memorial Day weekend for a special celebration of life.



Lynch identified the family as carriers of a rare and lethal genetic defect that caused almost an entire generation of the family to die from stomach cancer. As a result, 11 cousins opted to undergo pre-emptive surgery and had their stomachs removed. The Las Vegas reunion was the first time all eleven cousins, as well as Lynch and other doctors involved in the case, reunited to celebrate the cousins' survival and remember those who died before the genetic defect was detected.



The reunion captured the interest of such national media as ABC News and CNN. *Omaha World-Herald* columnist Mike Kelly also wrote a column on Lynch.



### **Soukups' Findings on Riboswitches Published**

Garrett Soukup, Ph.D, associate professor of biomedical sciences, and Juliane Strauss-Soukup, Ph.D., associate professor of chemistry, have published an article on riboswitches in the June issue of *Nature Structural & Molecular Biology* magazine.

Riboswitches are ribonucleic acid (RNA) elements that naturally regulate gene expression in essential bacterial metabolic pathways through direct interactions with metabolic compounds. The increasing need for new antibiotics due to drug-resistant bacteria and the possible emergence of "super bugs" make riboswitches an attractive target for drug development.

The Soukups' research is on one riboswitch (the glmS riboswitch) that controls a gene important for cell-wall biosynthesis in at least 18 different bacteria including human pathogens. The glmS riboswitch is unique among riboswitches in that it is also an RNA catalyst whose function is critical in regulating glmS gene expression.

The Soukups' work demonstrates that the glmS riboswitch is also unique among RNA catalysts in that it utilizes the metabolite as a coenzyme to perform catalysis - a biochemical strategy common among protein enzymes. Better understanding of the function of the metabolite is anticipated to impact the development of artificial coenzymes that perturb riboswitch-regulated gene expression and possibly inhibit bacterial cell growth.

### **Haddad Speaks Against Proposed Amendment**

Amy Haddad, Ph.D., director of the Center for Health Policy and Ethics, spoke against a proposed amendment to the Nebraska constitution in a July editorial she wrote for the *Omaha World-Herald*.



The amendment, which concerned end-of-life care, ultimately did not collect enough valid signatures to be placed on the Nov. 7 ballot.

“Now, a group calling itself America at Its Best and funded mostly by out-of-state sources, wants to take away Nebraskans’ right to make these difficult choices through an amendment to the state constitution. ...If adopted, Nebraskans would no longer be able make decisions for loved ones who can no longer tell us what they want for end-of-life care. Only individuals with advance directives (ADs) such as a living will or a legally designated substitute-decision maker, would be protected.” Haddad wrote in her editorial.

### **Cancer Center Research Breaks New Ground** New findings

by ZhaoYi Wang, Ph. D., associate professor of medical microbiology and immunology and of pathology; Brian Loggie, chief of surgical oncology and director of the Cancer Center; and researchers from two other institutions could significantly advance the understanding of the effects of estrogen in breast cancer and point the way towards new and



**Wang**



**Loggie**

potentially more effective treatments of the disease.

In June, an advanced online edition of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences published research by the group. Wang, the principal author, and Loggie helped discover a novel variant of a known human estrogen receptor (hER-a66). The new variant - called hER-a36 - "functions very differently" from hER-a66 in response to estrogen signaling, the study said, inhibiting key estrogen-dependent and estrogen-independent activities of hER-a66 and stimulating cell growth.

### **Medical Center Pilot Site for RRT Initiative**

Creighton University Medical Center is one of 16 hospitals nationwide selected to participate in an Association of American Medical Colleges' initiative to implement rapid response teams (RRTs) at academic medical centers.

"The initiative's goal is to provide a standardized trained response to a medical emergency in which intensive-care resources move to a bedside outside the ICU" said Creighton project leader Dan Schuller, M.D.



**Schuller**

Hospital RRTs are interdisciplinary health care teams trained to improve patient outcomes through early detection and treatment of serious changes in a patient's condition. The goal is to prevent codes outside the Intensive Care Unit.

Deployment of RRTs is one of six key interventions outlined by the Institute for Healthcare Improvement ([www.IHI.org](http://www.IHI.org)) and shown to reduce hospital mortality as part of the institute's 100k Lives Campaign.

A rapid response team is intended to add an extra layer of defense or safeguard to rescue a patient who may be slipping through the cracks, Schuller said.

Creighton's RRT team, started in April, includes a respiratory therapist, a critical-care nurse, an ICU resident/fellow, and a surgical resident. The team is expected to respond within five minutes to any call in the hospital. The team has already saved several lives, but a lot of work remains to strengthen the initiative and further improve outcomes, Schuller said.

"The intended structure of the response is with an attitude of "How can we help. . .," and facilitating the transfer of the

patient to a higher level of care if needed,” he commented.

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## Briefly Noted

### 2006 Golden Apple Award Recipients Selected

Recipients of the 2006 Golden Apple awards are James Phalen, M.D. (selected by Class of 2006); Alfred D. Fleming, M.D. (selected by Class of 2007); William Hunter, M.D. (selected by Class of 2008); and Thomas Quinn, Ph.D. (selected by Class of 2009).

The Golden Apple is awarded each year by medical students to faculty who exemplify outstanding teaching, concern for student learning, kindness and a willingness to go the extra step to help students achieve academic success.

### Creighton Experts Named to Health Commission

Two members of Creighton University’s School of Medicine – Daniel Wilson, M.D., chairman of the Department of Psychiatry; and Chris Bradberry, Pharm.D, dean of the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions – have been named to U.S.



**Wilson**



**Bradberry**

Sen. Chuck Hagel’s 10-member expert commission that examines health care issues. Members will make recommendations to the Nebraska senator for possible pursuit of legislative changes in the health care arena.

### Knoop Elected to IAMSE Board of Directors

Floyd C. Knoop, Ph.D., component I director in the Office of Medical Education at Creighton University Medical Center, has been elected to the Board of Directors of the International Association of Medical Science Educators (IAMSE).



As a member of IAMSE, Knoop will promote the advancement of medical education and work to strengthen public awareness of the crucial role of medical education in health care issues. The IAMSE board provides a multidisciplinary forum to promote the discussion of issues that are central to medical education, advance the practice and educational mechanisms of modern medicine, and support innovative methods for the advancement of educational issues at all levels of medical science.



### **Creighton Psychiatrist Named Young Investigator**

An international scientific jury has elected Sriram Ramaswamy, M.D., an instructor of psychiatry at Creighton University, as Young Investigator of the Year of the Collegium Internationale Neuro-Psychopharmacologicum, the principal international scientific organization to further clinical care, research and education in neuropsychopharmacology.



### **Lovas Named to Editorial Board**

Sandor Lovas, Ph.D., has been named an editorial board member of Protein and Peptide Letters, a journal for rapid communication of research results in the fields of protein and peptide science.

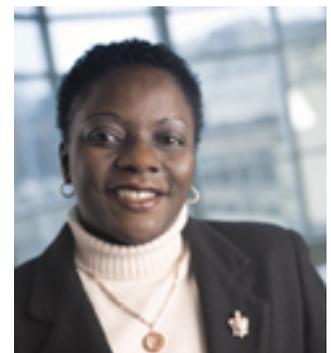
### **Brumback is Co-author of Alzheimer's Guide**

Roger Brumback, M.D., professor of pathology and psychiatry and chairman of the Department of Pathology, is co-author of a new book titled *A Caregiver's Guide to Alzheimer's Disease: 300 Tips for Making Life Easier*. The book focuses on the capabilities that remain instead of those that have been lost to the disease. Copies are available through Demos Medical Publishing.



### **YWCA Recognizes Kosoko-Lasaki**

Sade Kosoko-Lasaki, M.D., Creighton associate vice president for health sciences, was one of 10 women recognized recently during Tribute to Women, one of Omaha's largest events focused on increasing awareness of the tremendous contributions women make in the



community. Kosoko-Lasaki was recognized for her efforts in the medical professions. The event is a fundraiser for the YWCA in Omaha. More than 800 business professionals and community leaders attend the luncheon each year.



**Creighton**

### **Glaucoma Screening Initiative Gets Van**

Creighton University's Glaucoma Screening Initiative is expanding its efforts to serve a five-state area.

On July 13, CU's Office of Health Sciences' Multicultural and Community Affairs (HS-MACA) dedicated a new van to be used to bring the division's free glaucoma-screening program to at-risk populations in Nebraska, Iowa, South Dakota, Kansas and Colorado.

Since 2001, HS-MACA has reached out to populations that are at particular risk of developing glaucoma, including African Americans and Hispanics, through free eye screenings and educational programs and materials. Until now, those efforts have been limited primarily to north and south Omaha and several Native American reservations in Nebraska.

### **Pascotto Receives Alumni Achievement Award**

The founder of "Heart to Heart Mission," Robert D. Pascotto, M.D., received the Alumni Achievement Award during Creighton University's spring commencement.

Pascotto, a thoracic and cardiovascular surgeon, is a 1966 School of Medicine graduate. He founded "Heart to Heart Mission" in 2002 in Santiago, Dominican Republic. The mission makes three



medical mission trips annually, during which his team performs free heart surgeries. Pascotto spearheads donations from local hospitals, pharmaceutical companies, and manufacturers of medical products and their distributors.

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## Research

Despite the threat of continuing cutbacks in National Institutes of Health (NIH) research funding nationwide, new NIH dollars continue to play a critical role in ground-breaking research conducted at Creighton University. Since Jan. 1, 2006, the following School of Medicine faculty members have received major grants from this federal agency:

- Dan Wilson, Ph.D., Department of Psychiatry. "Relapse Prevention: Long-Acting Atypical Antipsychotic." Total award: \$1,047,277; five years
- Diane Cullen, Ph.D., Department of Medicine, Osteoporosis Research Center. "Anabolic Action of Wnt in the Adult Skeleton." Total award: \$1,696,564; four years
- Dr. Roger Reidelberger, Ph.D., Department of Biomedical Sciences. "Regulation of Food Intake and Body Adiposity by Peptide YY." Total award: \$1,212,560; five years
- Reidelberger. "Regulation of Food Intake and Body Weight by GLP-1." Total award: \$1,161,704; five years
- Jason Bartz, Ph.D., Department of Microbiology and Immunology. "Mechanism of Prion Strain Selection." Total award: \$1,452,940; five years
- Bernd Fritsch, Ph.D., Department of Biomedical Sciences. "Dissecting the Ear Neuosensory Development." Total award: \$1,945,187, five years
- Zhaoyi Wang, Ph.D., Cancer Center. "Estrogen Signaling in Normal and Transformed Cell Growth." Total award: \$1,470,875; five years
- Venkatesh Govindarajan, Cancer Center. "Molecular Regulation of Ocular Gland Development." Total award: \$1,722,000, five years
- Govindarajan. "Regulation of Parietal Bone Differentiation." Total award: \$143,500; two years

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## Faculty News

### Arrivals

- Aimin Chen, M.D., Ph.D., Preventive Medicine and Public Health
- Jason Foster, M.D., Surgery
- Thomas Jerabek, D.O., Anesthesiology
- Kathryn Kenna, M.D. Obstetrics and Gynecology
- Jeffrey Knajdl, M.D., Surgery
- Lisa Lee, Ph.D., Pathology
- Erin Loucks, M.D., Pediatrics
- Syed Qadri, M..B.B.S, Psychiatry
- Christy Rentmeester, Ph.D., Health Policy and Ethics
- Lisa Rice, M.D., Obstetrics and Gynecology
- Edgar Sotomayor, M.D., Pathology
- Brooke Sweeney, M.D., Medicine
- Randy Wobser, M.D., Obstetrics and Gynecology
- Sandra Baumberger, M.D., Family Medicine
- Nancy Koster, M.D., Medicine
- Leon Sykes, M.D., Surgery
- John Stone, M.D., Ph.D., Health Policy and Ethics

### Departures

- Donald Babin, Ph.D., Biomedical Sciences
- Monique Kusler, M.D., Medicine
- Martina Tribulato, M.D., Medicine
- Jose-Luis Prendes, M.D., Neurology
- Rifaat Bashir, M.D., Neurology
- Natalie Morgan, M.D., OB/GYN
- Michael Bradley, Ph.D., Pharmacology

### Promotion and Tenure

Laura A. Hansen, Ph.D., to associate professor of biomedical sciences; and Garrett A. Soukup, Ph.D., to associate professor of biomedical sciences

### Promotion

Chhanda Bewtra, M.D., to professor of pathology; Scott E. Fletcher, M.D., to professor of pediatrics (primary department), professor of medicine (secondary department), and professor of radiology (secondary department); and Sandra J. Landmark, M.D., to associate professor of anesthesiology

**Tenure**

Kirk W. Beisel, Ph.D., professor of biomedical sciences; Andrew I. Gelbman, D.O., assistant professor of radiology; Huagui Li, M.D., associate professor of medicine; and Shailendra K. Saxena, M.D., assistant professor of family medicine (primary department) and assistant professor of biomedical sciences (secondary department)

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