

Volume 4 Issue 4

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### In this Issue

#### Development

Into the Future

#### Appointments

Kavan

#### In the News

Stem Cell Research  
Dundee Clinic  
Inventors' Meeting

#### Research

Nancy Hanson  
Research Reception

#### Noteworthy Moments

Magis Fundraiser  
Faculty Awards  
Sonnino Exhibit  
Award to Hanson  
AAMC Scholar

#### Donor Corner

Class of 1974

### Message From The Dean

#### Focus on Development

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

Creighton's *Willing to Lead* campaign comes at a critical juncture for the School of Medicine.

A Creighton medical degree has always been a degree of difference. That difference is found in our steadfast adherence to the Jesuit, Catholic mission we pursue daily in the education, research and clinical care we provide.

To continue that legacy, we must be willing to grow, innovate, excel and dream.

The School of Medicine is committed to expanding, upgrading and maintaining our clinical and educational facilities to acknowledge the realities of the health care environment in which our students will practice.

A new skills and assessment center will allow our students to hone their assessment, diagnostic and procedural skills.

Creighton is also committed to keeping medical school affordable. The cost of a medical education has skyrocketed in recent years; today's graduate leaves school with an average debt in excess of \$170,000.



This cost and subsequent debt threaten to put the dream of becoming a physician out of reach for some, particularly economically disadvantaged students. It also impacts choice of specialty and practice location as some students feel compelled to choose more lucrative fields of practice to pay their debt.

Endowment for scholarships will decrease the School of Medicine's reliance on tuition and help ensure the school's ability to attract capable and committed students. It will also allow the school to increase its enrollment to meet the world's growing and complex medical needs.

As scholarship endowment will help to ensure the quality and diversity of our students, faculty endowment is also critical. Endowed chairs and professorships allow the School of Medicine to attract and retain talented teachers and researchers as well as facilitate the receipt of additional extramural research funding.

In conclusion, we have a future that is ripe with opportunity. With the support of our alumni and friends, I am confident we will achieve our vision for a bold tomorrow in the School of Medicine.

If you would like to learn more about the Willing to Lead campaign and the School of Medicine's campaign priorities, I encourage you to contact Matt Gerard, the school's director of development, at 280-5746. I want to thank Matt for his work on behalf of the school, which is so critical to our future.

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## Development

### Into the Future

By [Matt Gerard](#)

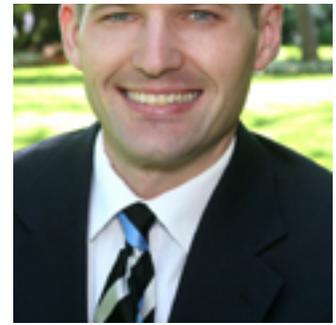
*Director of Development  
School of Medicine*

Echoing Dr. Enarson's comments, the School of Medicine is at a critical but exciting time in Creighton's



### *Willing to Lead* campaign.

The school continues to receive generous support from alumni, faculty, friends and grateful patients to support the school's vision for tomorrow.



In September, the School of Medicine hosted its annual reunion weekend, bringing together 412 Creighton alumni from across the country. Alumni viewed the premiere showing of "Seeking a Bold Tomorrow," a nine-minute video outlining the campaign's initiatives, and received copies of the school's case statement, which detailed these initiatives and the vision for the School of Medicine.

A Grateful Patients and Families Program is also underway with patients being asked to consider a gift to support the department in which they were treated. The direct-mail program will be a coordinated effort between the development office and Creighton Medical Associates.

If you would like a copy of the case statement, a "Seeking a Bold Tomorrow" DVD, or materials relating to the grateful patient program, please contact the School of Medicine's development office at (402) 280-5745.

[Back to Contents](#)

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## **Appointments**

### **Kavan Elected to AAMC Post**

Michael Kavan, Ph.D., associate dean for student affairs at Creighton University School of Medicine, has been elected national vice chair of the Group on Student Affairs (GSA) for the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) for 2007-2008.

Kavan will help lead the GSA a





total of four years, beginning in November, serving one year each as vice chair, chair-elect, chair, and past chair.

Kavan joined Creighton in 1988 and has served as associate dean for student affairs since 1996. In addition to his administrative duties, he is an associate professor of family medicine and associate professor of psychiatry.

At the AAMC, he has served as chair of the Central Group on Student Affairs and as a member of the GSA Steering Committee. In February 2007, he concluded three years as a member of the Careers in Medicine Advisory Committee.

[Back to Contents](#)

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## In the News

### **Enarson on Stem Cell Research**

Cam Enarson, M.D., M.B.A, vice president for health sciences and dean of the School of Medicine, wrote an opinion-editorial on stem cell research that appeared in the Sept. 20, Sunday edition of the Omaha World-Herald. The article ran in advance of a Center for Health Policy & Ethics community forum on stem cell research, designed to help educate the public about the Catholic view on this subject.

“At Creighton, we believe the greater good is to advocate for and support research involving adult stem cells. ...Particularly promising are adult stem cells found in umbilical cord blood, which remains in the umbilical cord and placenta following birth. Cord-blood stem cells show great promise in the treatment of blood diseases, including leukemia and neurodegenerative diseases such as Parkinson’s disease. They can be readily obtained and are free from ethical controversy. Unfortunately, cord-blood stem cells are generally discarded following birth, despite their tremendous potential in research and treatment of a wide variety of diseases,” Enarson wrote.

He urged Nebraskans “to become informed on the stem cell issue and to participate in a dialogue that explores

the opportunities that adult stem cells and cord blood present. That includes the possibility of establishing a cord-blood bank in our state. We must challenge legislators, health care officials and each other to advocate for research and support in this area.”

### **Creighton Hosts Forum about Catholic View on Stem-Cell Research**

Two of the nation’s leading health ethicists spoke about the Catholic Church’s perspective on stem cell research during a September community forum sponsored by the Creighton University Center for Health Policy & Ethics.

The forum featured the Rev. Kevin FitzGerald, S.J., Ph. D., holder of the Dr. David Lauler Chair in Catholic Health Care Ethics and a research associate professor in the Department of Oncology at Georgetown University, and Ron Hamel, Ph.D., senior director of ethics at the Catholic Health Association of the United States.

FitzGerald spoke on “Stem Cell Research: A Catholic Response” and Hamel on “The Lure of Embryonic Stem Cells: What Should Catholic Health Care Do?”

### **Dundee Clinic to Relocate**

Creighton Medical Associates (CMA) will relocate its Dundee medical clinic to the former Dundee Hardware Plus at the corner of 50th and Underwood streets.

“Creighton has long been committed to serving the health needs of the Dundee neighborhood,” said Creighton President the Rev. John P. Schlegel, S.J. “Our move to the highly visible 50th and Underwood location is good for Creighton and important for the continued renaissance and revitalization of this beautiful and historical district.”



The new, leased site will provide more space, additional parking and easier patient access than the current location at 119 N. 51 St. The move should be completed in Spring 2008.

“We like the new location because it is in the heart of the vibrant Dundee neighborhood, and it offers 9,000 square feet on one, main floor – nearly double the space of our current location,” said Robert Glow, *pictured above*, CMA chief executive officer.

### **Future Inventors Meet**

Creighton’s first conference on “From Inventor to Entrepreneur: Bringing Your Ideas to Market” caught the attention of editors at the Omaha World-Herald, which ran two front-page stories on the event in its business section.

The two-day conference was held in September at Embassy Suites in Omaha’s Old Market district. The event was designed to show inventors how they could turn discoveries and ideas into viable business ventures.

Creighton’s Office of Technology Transfer sponsored the event. Organizers hope to make it an annual event.

[Back to Contents](#)

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## **Research**

### **Hanson Finds Resistant Strain in Puerto Rico**

In September, Bloomberg News Service reported on research conducted by Nancy Hanson, Ph.D., and colleagues involving a dangerous gene that allows bacteria to resist a powerful class of drugs.



Hanson, Creighton associate professor of medical microbiology and immunology, found the gene, called KPC, in drug-resistant strains of *Pseudomonas* isolated from people in San Juan, Puerto Rico. This was the first report of such wide dissemination of the gene in *Pseudomonas* and the first report of its spread to Puerto Rico.

The gene allows bacteria to overcome a class of drugs called carbapenems; they are sometimes a doctor's last line of defense against these infections, the article noted.

"People are dying from these infections," Hanson told Bloomberg. "For some patients, there are no treatments available." Hanson and colleagues reported their findings at the Interscience Conference on Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy in Chicago.

[Back to Contents](#)

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## Noteworthy Moments

### **\$40,000 Raised for Clinic**

Golf clubs were swinging as 56 players from Creighton University and the Omaha community participated in the third annual Magis Clinic Golf Classic, helping to raise more than \$40,000.

All tournament proceeds will support the School of Medicine's Magis Free Clinic. The clinic, organized in 2004 by Creighton medical students, offers free health services on Saturdays to Omaha's homeless, uninsured and underinsured.

Omaha architectural firm RDG Planning & Design was presenting sponsor; tournament co-sponsors were consulting/engineering firms Thompson, Dreesen & Dorner and Farris Engineering. The Hawks Foundation contributed a matching donation of \$15,000.

### **School Recognizes Three**

Creighton University School of Medicine has recognized three faculty members for their contributions to the University. The annual awards were presented at the school's Fall Faculty Meeting. Receiving awards were:

- Patricia M. Sullivan, Ph.D., *(right)* professor of psychiatry, Distinguished Service Research Career Award for her contributions to behavioral



research. Sullivan's work focuses on the effects of violence exposure on children, neglectful parenting, domestic and community violence, and transgenerational family violence.



- Lee Morrow, M.D., *(right)* assistant professor of medicine, Young Investigator Award for his work to improve the quality of care and reduce complications in hospital intensive care units. In 2005, the American College of Chest Physicians selected him as one of the organization's top 10 young investigators.



- Bruce Houghton, M.D., associate professor of medicine, Distinguished Continuing Medical Education (CME) Faculty Award. The award is given to a faculty member who is actively involved in CME activities, including the development of conferences that reflect the University's Jesuit, Catholic mission.

### **Sonnino Photos Featured**

Photographs taken by Roberta E. Sonnino, M.D., associate dean for academic and faculty affairs and professor of surgery and pediatrics at the School of Medicine, are featured in a special traveling exhibit, titled "Fragile Beginnings. Assembled by the March of Dimes, Nebraska Chapter, the photographs capture the pain, suffering, joy and resilience of children who are born prematurely.



The exhibit is traveling to Omaha and Lincoln businesses through November, which is National Prematurity Awareness Month.

### **Foundation Honors Hanson**

Nancy D. Hanson, Ph.D., Creighton University associate professor of medical microbiology and immunology, was recognized for her contributions to the fight against cystic fibrosis during the Nebraska Cystic Fibrosis Foundation's annual "Nebraska's Finest" event in October.

Hanson's laboratory is involved in determining optimal drug treatments for bacterial lung infections, which cystic fibrosis patients suffer most of their lives and which can eventually become resistant to many antibiotics. In addition, Hanson and her colleagues are investigating mechanisms of resistance that could lead to the identification of new targets for the design of novel antibiotics that are more efficient in killing bacteria causing these infections.

### **Student is AAMC Scholar**

Creighton medical student Danielle K. Potter has been awarded the prestigious Herbert Nickens Scholarship by the American Association of Medical Colleges.

Potter, of Waimea, Hawaii, is one of five, third-year medical students nationwide to receive the \$5,000 scholarship in 2007 for their efforts to address the educational, societal and health care needs of minorities.



[Back to Contents](#)

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## **Donor Corner**

### **1974 Class Creates Scholarship**

A Class of 1974 Endowed Scholarship for the School of Medicine has been established with an initial gift just in excess of \$25,000. Contributions from other class members are being encouraged.

The scholarship will provide financial support to students of high academic merit. In selecting scholarship recipients, preference will be given to underrepresented ethnic minorities (African American; Mexican American; Puerto Rican; or Native American, including native Hawaiian and native Alaskan) or those designated by the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) as underrepresented ethnic minorities.

[Back to Content](#)

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