

DEAN'S REPORT

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School of Medicine

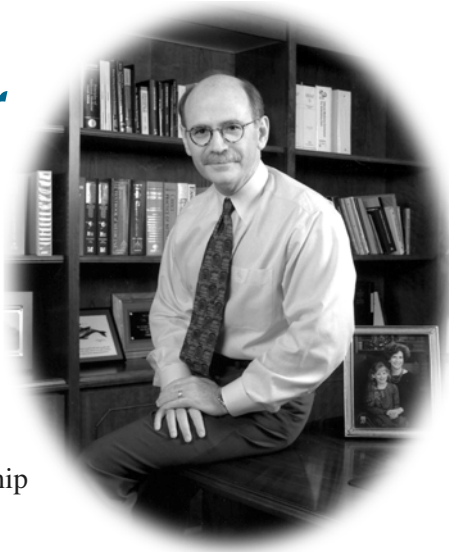
Dean's Viewpoint: Preparing for the Third Frontier

It has been widely acknowledged that Ohio is falling behind in some key indicators regarding the education of its citizens from kindergarten through professional schools. In his State of the State address, Gov. Bob Taft emphasized the importance of the Third Frontier, an initiative designed to infuse resources into proven economic engines—colleges and universities. A \$1.6 billion, 10-year plan, the Third Frontier stresses collaboration among universities and the private sector with the goal of creating new high-wage jobs, developing a nationally competitive “high tech” industry, and linking the biomedical research from higher education with private companies for product development.

With the intention of expanding Ohio's research capabilities and improving research facilities, the Third Frontier offers unique

opportunities for us. Both the university and the school have worked collaboratively to gain statewide recognition, most notably through the successful proposal, Genome Research Infrastructure Partnership (GRIP). Awarded last September to a consortium of institutions, including the School of Medicine, by the state's Biomedical Research and Technology Transfer Commission, GRIP is an excellent example of what the state is looking for.

GRIP represents a regional partnership, linking academic, government, and commercial entities to form a comprehensive infrastructure, advance biomedical research, and develop commercial products. The infrastructure is a critical step toward gaining national funding and recognition and combines expertise and facilities in a cost effective way. The



Howard M. Part, M.D., Dean

program's partners include the Genome Research Institute at the University of Cincinnati, the Children's Hospital Research Foundation of Cincinnati, Procter & Gamble Pharmaceuticals, the Air Force Research Laboratory at Wright-Patterson, Acero Inc., and Wright State University. Robert Fyffe, Ph.D., director of the Center for Brain Research and associate dean for research affairs, serves as co-principal investigator for GRIP and several of our researchers are involved in the partnership.

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B. Laurel Elder, Ph.D.

B. Laurel Elder, Ph.D., has been teaching clinical microbiology to Wright State's medical students since 1986. Currently the technical director for CompuNet Clinical Laboratories in Moraine, Dr. Elder provides our students with knowledge and laboratory experiences that "they might do later in a physician office setting. For example, if I lecture on streptococci, in the laboratory we have them do a direct strep antigen test, using a throat swab," explains Dr. Elder. "Or we have them look at plates for a urine culture and identify them on morphology alone, that is if they learn the morphology!"

Dr. Elder and eight or nine of her technicians from CompuNet spend time with our first- and second-year medical students on campus. The Moraine facility also hosts residents in their Infectious Disease rotation on a monthly basis. CompuNet was formed in the mid-80s as a joint venture between Miami Valley Hospital, Valley Pathologists Inc., and a national reference laboratory. The regional lab employs between 400 and 450 with all testing areas reporting to Dr. Elder.

Frequently recognized by our students for her outstanding service and teaching excellence, Dr. Elder loves to teach. "When I'm in front of a class and I can see that the students are interested, I can just feel the adrenaline flowing. I love microbiology and teaching, so if I can get the two of them together, it's a lot of fun. And, it makes me a better microbiologist, too, because I have to study. I have to keep up."

While Dr. Elder enjoys teaching, her fondest memories involve former students who long ago

completed her course. She recalls one summer, while walking through a parking lot, a former student "comes bounding up. She was so excited. 'Dr. Elder, Dr. Elder! You won't believe what happened to me! I saw a patient with Nocardia. I never thought I'd see that bug, and it was really in a patient!' Getting that positive reinforcement from them once they've gone out into the real world is really gratifying."

Dr. Elder received her master's and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Vermont and was a postdoctoral fellow in clinical and public health microbiology at the Mayo Clinic before becoming the microbiology director for CompuNet in 1986. Her publications encompass several areas, including assessment of clinical microbiology laboratories, pneumococcal meningitis, and drug-resistant enterococci.

"I love microbiology and teaching, so if I can get the two of them together, it's a lot of fun."

She has noted that Wright State's medical school is unique, particularly in its diversity, "all different ages and experiences is one of the best things about Wright State." She has also been impressed with the commitment and personal involvement of faculty and administrators with students. "There seems to be an understanding of how they evolve from being students into physicians. People are actually listening and trying to adapt to meet their needs. I'm struck by that."

News in Brief

New Grant Targets Cardiovascular Health

The National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute has announced that Dayton will become part of its network for implementing targeted and culturally sensitive health education strategies at the community level. A \$500,000, three-year grant has been awarded to a coalition headed by the Division of Health Systems Management in the Department of Community Health.

The project's goals center on identifying cardiovascular risk factors and preventing cardiovascular disease by implementing strategies to optimize both physician practices and patient behaviors. Strategies include increasing awareness of one's own health status, better monitoring of

hypertension and cholesterol through physicians' offices, early detection of and intervention for cardiovascular risk factors, and patient education materials.

One of six recipients chosen this year, Dayton will join a group of community-based organizations named Enhanced Dissemination and Utilization Centers (EDUC). The EDUC program, now totaling 12 communities, was launched in 2001 to implement focused heart-health education strategies in high-risk communities.



Richard J. Schuster, M.D., M.M.M., Oscar Boonshoft Chair and Director, Division of Health Systems Management, Department of Community Health (Left), accepting the EDUC award plaque from Gregory Morosco, Associate Director for Prevention, Education, and Control, NHLBI.

Emergency Medicine Plays Role in Homeland Security

The Department of Emergency Medicine, the specialty whose core curriculum includes disaster medicine, is providing critical leadership in our community's preparedness. In collaboration with the Dayton Regional Hazardous Material Response Team and Dayton Fire Department, the department is offering monthly programs January through March for area physicians on biologic, chemical, and nuclear agents. Designed as the first step in physician-specific education, the sessions are developed from an affiliation with the National Disaster Learning Education Consortium, consisting of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), academic, military, and private sector partners.

In partnership with the Montgomery County Medical Society, the department is establishing a physician disaster pool program, identifying physicians from several medical specialties to volunteer their time and expertise. The school is also a partner with the Greater Dayton Area Hospital Association's Domestic Preparedness Task Force, the local National Pharmaceutical Stockpile Program, and the Dayton Area Metropolitan Medical Response Team.

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These collaborative partnerships have proven beneficial, fostering working relationships across campus boundaries and access to new technologies. For example, Acero Inc. is a Cleveland-based software company specializing in informatics for scientific research. The company is sharing its Genomics Knowledge Platform software with Wright State researchers, who will use it in conjunction with the gene array technology.

School of Medicine researchers have just submitted two proposals to the state for review for funding. The first proposal builds upon the strategic initiatives of the GRIP project funded in last year's review. If funded, the second proposal will focus on toxicological research, with academic partners (the School of Medicine, the College of Science and Math-Environmental Sciences, and the College of Engineering and Computer Science); private sector partners (Battelle, CADx Systems, and Rogosin Institute); and the Air Force Research Laboratory.

As we look to the future, partnerships like these are examples of how our universities can move Ohio forward.

—Howard Part, M.D.



Notes

New Books

The second edition of one of the most popular textbooks in the field of emergency medicine has been published by the W. B. Saunders Co. Authored by more than 30 specialists around the country, including nine from the school of medicine, *Emergency Medicine: An Approach to Clinical Problem-Solving* was co-authored and edited by **Glenn Hamilton, M.D.**, professor and chair of emergency medicine. The book presents more than 65 common patient presentations in emergency medicine as a “compilation of best evidence and clinical experience.” The book is designed for both medical students and PGY-1 EM residents as well as residents on an emergency medicine rotation.

William Hurd, M.D., professor and chair of obstetrics/gynecology, recently edited and co-authored the first-ever book on Aeromedical Evacuation (AE). Published by Springer Verlag of New York as part of a projected series about military medicine, the book is an in-depth resource for transporting critically ill or injured patients long distances by air. AE is different from medical evacuation (Medevac), which uses helicopters or ground vehicles to move patients short distances to a nearby medical facility. AE involves long distance transport with fixed wing aircraft, requiring careful consideration of the medical factors of each patient and converting the aircraft into a flying intensive-care unit.

New Certificate Program



A new one-year Certificate in Health Care Management is now being offered jointly by the School of Medicine and the Raj Soin College of Business. The certificate is designed to prepare health care leaders by introducing them “to advanced business concepts, evaluation techniques, and strategic thinking so they can lead effectively, improve quality, increase productivity, and manage costs within their organizations.” The program will be administered in the Division of Health Systems Management, Department of Community Health.

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