

medicine

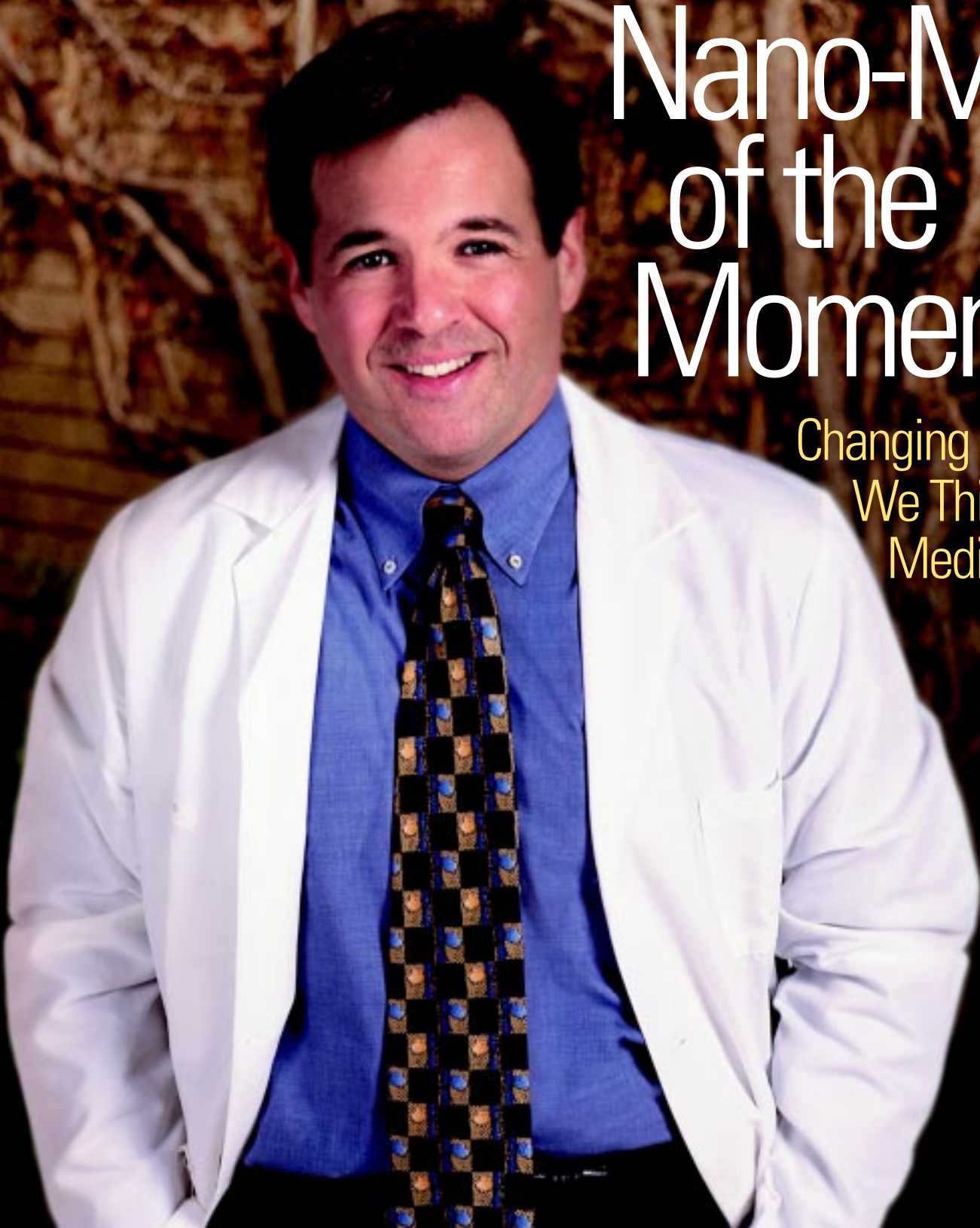
at M I C H I G A N

Summer 2000

A PUBLICATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN MEDICAL SCHOOL

Nano-Man of the Moment

Changing the Way
We Think About
Medicine



In the Limelight

Charles M. Boyd, M.D. (Residency 1998), clinical assistant professor of otolaryngology and dermatology, has been selected to participate in the American Medical Association Glaxo Wellcome Emerging Leaders Development Program. The Program's goal is to offer tools to help physicians better meet the challenges facing them individually and collectively in the legislative/regulatory, organized medicine, and managed care arenas. Only 50 physicians from across the U.S. were selected to participate, chosen for their demonstrated leadership potential, commitment to leadership development, participation in organized medicine, and the diversity of their leadership experience.



Mary-Margaret Brandt, M.D., clinical instructor in the Department of Surgery, Division of Trauma, Burn and Emergency Surgery, and **Mary M. Johnson**, clinical assistant professor in the Department

of Internal Medicine, were selected as recipients of the University of Michigan Traditions of Leadership Award. The award offsets expenses associated with attending the Association of American Medical College's Professional Development Seminar for Junior Women Faculty and is made possible through the Medical School Gender Equity Fund and the University of Michigan Alumnae Council.



George J. Brewer, M.D., Morton and Henrietta Sellner Professor of Human Genetics and professor of internal medicine, was presented with the American College of Nutrition's Master's Award at the College's 1999 meeting. Only the seventh Master's Award in the College's 40-year history, it recognizes a lifetime of excellence in research in the area of nutrition.



Brewer was selected on the basis of his long-term work on zinc and copper, and, more recently, on molybdenum compounds. In 1998, Brewer received the Raulin Award of the International Society for Trace Element Research in Humans. The Raulin Award is the Society's highest honor and recognizes lifetime achievement in research on trace elements.

Theodore M. Cole, M.D., professor emeritus and retired chair of the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, was honored with the 1999 Distinguished Member Award from the American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. The award honors members who have provided invaluable service to the specialty of physical medicine and rehabilitation primarily through participation in related organizations. The Academy is the national medical specialty society of more than 6,000 physical medicine and rehabilitation physicians.



Arnold G. Coran, M.D., professor of surgery and head of the Section of Pediatric Surgery, recently completed a term as chair of the Executive Committee of the Surgical Section of the American

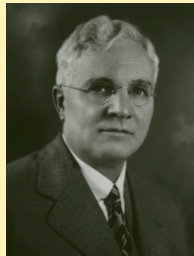
Academy of Pediatrics. Under Coran's direction, several innovations were made to the annual meeting program, including State of the Art lectures delivered by professor Jose Boix-Ochoa from Barcelona, Spain, and Agostino Pierro, from London, England.

Melody Neely Is First Recipient of Ward MacNeal Award

The first Ward J. MacNeal Distinguished Dissertation Award for best dissertation by a student in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology was made to **Melody Neely** (Ph.D. 1998) at a ceremony in March, 2000, for her dissertation entitled "Functional and Genetic Analysis of the Lambdoid Bacteriophage H-198, A Natural Vector for the Shiga-like Toxin Genes." Neely's work focusing on the causes of infectious diseases mirrors that of Ward MacNeal (A.B. 1901, Ph.D. 1904, M.D. 1905, Hon. Sc.D. 1939), an



eminent pathologist who was a leading authority on bacteriophage and who served as professor of bacteriology and director of bacteriological services at New York Post-Graduate Medical School from 1912 to 1946.



Currently a post-doctoral fellow in the Department of Molecular Microbiology at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, Neely was chosen for the MacNeal Award based on overall scholarly credentials, degree of innovation and insight, and the scope and importance of her work. The Ward MacNeal Distinguished Dissertation Award is made possible by a gift from the estate of Charlotte Etzold MacNeal, the wife of Ward MacNeal's son, Perry S. MacNeal (M.D. 1936, Residency 1940).

Josef Miller: He'll Help Pick Nobel Prize Winners



Josef Miller, Ph.D., was appointed as a foreign adjunct professor at Sweden's prestigious Nobel Prize-granting Karolinska Institute in Stockholm in recognition of his long-standing research with the Institute and the new research and training programs he developed there during his recent sabbatical. He is one of only 10 Americans to hold the title. Among his duties, he will nominate and vote on candidates for the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine.

Miller is the Ruth and Lynn Townsend Professor of Otolaryngology and an adjunct professor in psychology at the U-M. He is a member of the Neuroscience Program faculty and of the Center for Biomedical Engineering. From 1984 to 1999, he was director of the Kresge Hearing Research Institute; he is currently director of the Center for Communication Disorders.

In addition to his doctorate in physiology, Miller has received two honorary medical degrees from the Universities of Goteborg in Sweden and Turku in Finland. In 1997, he received the Presidential Citation of the American Academy of Otolaryngology — Head and Neck Surgery. He served as chair of the U-M Research Priority Committee and received the Regents Distinguished Service Award for his work in establishing the National Institute of Deafness and Other Communication Disorders, the 13th Institute of the NIH.

Jeffrey A. Fessler, Ph.D., associate professor of internal medicine, of electrical engineering and computer science, and of biomedical engineering, recently received the University's Henry Russel Award. The annual award, established in



1925 with a bequest from Henry Russel of Detroit, is given to young faculty members for scholarly achievement and promise. "His research in tomographic medical imaging, iterative estimation and statistical inverse problems is absolutely first rate and has given him exceptional visibility in academia and industry at a relatively early stage of his career," the selection committee noted. Fessler joined the U-M in 1993.

Sid Gilman, M.D., William J. Herdman Professor of Neurology, chair of the Department of Neurology, and director of the Michigan Alzheimer's Disease Research Center, has been named a Fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine, effective February 1, 2000. The Royal Society, based in London, publishes research books and journals, sponsors lectures and conferences, and maintains the leading medical library in Europe.



Mark A. Helvie, M.D. (Residency 1983, 1986), associate professor of radiology (*not pictured*), and **Jon A. Jacobson**, M.D., clinical assistant professor of radiology, received the 1999 *Radiology* Journal Editor's Recognition Award for Reviewing with Distinction. Helvie and Jacobson were among 70 reviewers chosen from a field of 995 for this recognition; their names were listed in the January, 2000, issue of *Radiology*. *Radiology* is a monthly journal devoted to clinical radiology and allied science, published by the Radiological Society of North America. ➤



Timeline



Theodore S. Lawrence, M.D., Ph.D., Isadore Lampe Professor of Radiation Oncology, chair of the Department of Radiation Oncology, and co-chair of the Experimental Therapeutics Program at the U-M Comprehensive Cancer

Center, has been named to the Board of the American Society of Clinical Oncology. Lawrence will serve a three-year term which began May, 2000. ASCO is the world's leading professional society representing physicians from 95 countries who treat people with cancer.

Qingxue Li, Ph.D., research investigator in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology, received the 1999 Herpes Foundation Gertrude Elion Award for distinguished contributions in herpesvirus research. This is the top national award given annually to two early-career investigators in honor of the Nobel Laureate, Gertrude Elion. It includes a \$10,000 award (\$5,000 to the department and \$5,000 to the investigator) and is presented to outstanding female scholars in herpesvirus research.



Elion received the Nobel Prize in 1988 for her work on life-saving medicines for leukemia, herpesvirus and immune disorders. Elion, who discovered acyclovir, entered the field at a time when most employers would not hire women to perform scientific research. The American Herpes Foundation provides the Elion Award to foster awareness and treatment of herpesviruses and to honor outstanding research in the field.



Dean S. Louis, M.D., professor of surgery in the Section of Orthopedics, delivered the inaugural address at the First International Hand Surgery Instructional Course in Cairo, Egypt, in November, 1999. The course was sponsored by the Egyptian Orthopedic and Plastic Surgery Societies and by Physicians for Peace, a group devoted to education and patient care in underdeveloped areas of the world. In 1997, Louis was president of the American Society for Surgery of the Hand, the oldest organization in the nation devoted to education regarding afflictions of the hand.



Michael A. Marletta, Ph.D., John G. Searle Professor of Medicinal Chemistry and professor of biological chemistry, was recently named Michigan Scientist of the Year for 2000 by the Impression 5 Science Center in Lansing. He

was selected for his numerous contributions to the field of nitric oxide biochemistry. Impression 5 Science Center created the Tribute to Science and Technology Award program in 1981 to honor individuals who have made significant contributions to science and technology in Michigan. Emphasis is given to individuals who also serve as models for post secondary students.

Juanita Merchant, M.D., Ph.D., associate professor of internal medicine and physiology, has been selected to serve as a member of the General Medicine "A" Study Section in the Center for Scientific



Institutes of Health. Members of NIH study sections are selected on the basis of demonstrated competence and achievement in scientific disciplines as evidenced by the quality of research accomplishments, publications in scientific journals, and other significant scientific activities, achievements and honors. Merchant will serve from July 1, 2000 through June 30, 2004.

Satoshi Minoshima, M.D., Ph.D., associate professor of internal medicine in the Division of Nuclear Medicine, has been chosen to receive the sixth Henry Wagner Jr. Clinical PET Award from the Institute for Advanced Medical Technology. Minoshima was chosen for his scientific



contributions, including the development of stereotactic image analysis of brain PET/SPECT and applications to PET activation studies, discovery of posterior cingulate gyrus hypometabolism in Alzheimer's disease, and the proposal and development of "diagnostic" statistical mapping techniques for functional brain images. His methods are currently used at 40 institutions in 11 countries.

Mark B. Orringer,



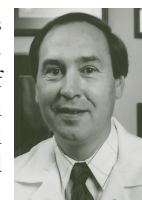
M.D., John Alexander Distinguished Professor and head of the Section of General Thoracic Surgery, was elected vice president of the Society of Thoracic Surgeons at the Society's 36th annual meeting in January, 2000. Orringer will assume the presidency of the Society in 2001. The Society's primary objective is to improve the quality and practice of thoracic and cardiovascular surgery. It is the largest professional society of cardiothoracic surgeons in the world and has a combined national and international membership of approximately 4,000 surgeons.

Jean Robillard, M.D., professor and chair of the Department of Pediatrics and Communicable Diseases, has been elected a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He was recognized during a ceremony at the Association's Annual Meeting on February 19, 2000, for "important contributions to understanding renal development and maturation of kidney function and for leadership in the discipline of pediatrics." AAAS is the world's largest federation of scientists, as well as publisher of the journal *Science*.



Thomas L. Schwenk, M.D., professor and chair of the Department of Family Medicine, has been elected to the board of directors of the American Board of Family Practice.

Gregory Wolf, M.D., has been invited by the Department of Surgery, University of Hong Kong, to be an External Examiner of the Dental Examination (BDS Third Examination). In conjunction with this honor, Wolf will also be guest lecturer at the Hong Kong Surgical Forum, a postgraduate course sponsored by the University of Hong Kong's Departments of Surgery and Medicine. Following the Surgical Forum, Wolf will travel to Xian, China, as an invited speaker at a Joint Surgical Convention held in conjunction with the Fourth Military Medical University. [m](#)





George J. Brewer and Dean Allen S. Lichter.

George J. Brewer Installed as First Sellner Professor of Human Genetics

George J. Brewer, M.D., professor of human genetics and a specialist in the treatment of Wilson's disease, was installed as the first Morton S. and Henrietta K. Sellner Professor of Human Genetics at a ceremony held at the Gerald R. Ford Library on April 24, 2000.

A member of the Medical School faculty since 1965, Brewer has been director of an interdepartmental graduate training program in genetics since the program's inception 22 years ago. His research, which he describes as "opportunistic pursuit of interesting projects, particularly those with an opportunity for new disease treatments," has largely focused on copper metabolism. Experimenting with zinc as a therapy for sickle cell anemia, Brewer discovered that zinc caused copper deficiency. This led to a new treatment for Wilson's disease, an inherited condition of copper accumulation and toxicity. The FDA in January, 1997, approved zinc as therapy for Wilson's disease based almost entirely on the work of Brewer and his research team.



Seated: Morton and Henrietta Sellner
Standing, from left: George Brewer, Lucia Brewer, Ascher Sellner, Allen S. Lichter, and Thomas D. Gelehrter, chair of Human Genetics

The Sellners, whose son, Ascher, was diagnosed with Wilson's disease in 1971, established the professorship to recognize and encourage Brewer's work and to honor his care of their son. Ascher Sellner, M.D., now 58, is a gynecologist in private practice in Brookfield, Connecticut. The Sellner's gift of \$1 million in the form of a charitable remainder trust will be matched with \$750,000 from the Medical School; an endowed research fund will accompany the professorship, encouraging research and treatment efforts in genetic diseases.

Dixon Named to National Academy of Sciences

Jack E. Dixon, Ph.D., the Minor J. Coon Professor of Biological Chemistry and chair of the Department of Biological Chemistry, was recently elected to the prestigious National Academy of Sciences. Academy members are elected in recognition of distinguished and continuing achievements in original scientific research.

"For a scientist, election to the National Academy of Sciences is the highest recognition short of the Nobel Prize," said Gil Omenn, M.D., Ph.D., executive vice president for medical affairs. "Jack Dixon is one of the nation's pre-eminent biochemists, and we are very proud to have him on the Medical School faculty." Dixon studies the structure and function of the protein tyrosine phosphatases, or PTPases, and their important role in cellular signaling.

Dixon is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, a member of the Institute of Medicine, and past president of the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. He also serves on the National Scientific Review Board of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. Dixon was named Michigan Scientist of the Year in 1994. In 1997, he received the U-M Distinguished Faculty Lectureship Award in Biomedical Research. In 1999, he was chosen as the Henry Russel Lecturer, the highest honor the University gives to a senior faculty member. Dixon also chaired the faculty advisory committee for the U-M's new Life Sciences Initiative.

