

Message from the Executive Vice President for Medical Affairs



This year began on a high note for the University of Michigan Health System, with the news that U-M's C.S. Mott Children's Hospital was ranked fifth among the nation's children's hospitals in an independent national survey conducted by *Child* magazine. This is the second time *Child* magazine has surveyed children's hospitals; previously Mott placed ninth in the rankings. Recognition of the superior work done at Mott comes at a time when the hospital is seriously crowded and greatly challenged to accommodate changing technology, expanding programs, and the demand for services. What more might Mott accomplish with new, state-of-the-art facilities? It is a compelling question we hope to answer in the not-so-distant future.

Education is our core mission, and the revised Medical School curriculum, approved last year, is in its final stages of development to be implemented with the entering class this fall. The pending ACGME requirements to limit the duty hours of residents, which become effective July 1, provide an opportunity not only to control their workload but also to redesign and focus their clinical work to improve their educational experience. The Standardized Patient Program, developed by the Department of Medical Education in 1989, trains individuals to represent patients in a process of simulated patient-physician interactions. Nationally recognized as a model of learning, this program was recently expanded to evaluate incoming residents. The U-M led the country in developing this valuable experience for students and may be the first to use the assessment to evaluate incoming residents.

A recent *Wall Street Journal* article mentioned the U-M Health System Web site as one of the top sites in the country for providing health and medical information online. Two areas highlighted include the Women's Health Program (www.med.umich.edu/whp/whrc.htm) and our overall patient education site for information on tests and procedures (www.med.umich.edu/1libr/1libr.htm). In 2001, there were nearly 10 million visits to this site, and more than 46 million pages were viewed. And we recently launched our Symphony of Life Web site on genetics information (www.med.umich.edu/genetics), which serves as an online genetics resource for the general public as well as highlights U-M's leadership in genetics and life sciences research. The site, modeled on the symphony theme, uses U-M's own Life Sciences Orchestra to both illustrate the genetic

process and provide a creative backdrop to leading-edge information on the genome and its incredible potential for helping us understand the mechanisms of human health, disease and treatment.

The U-M Health System has established itself as a leader in patient safety, not only in the state but nationally. The details of our Patient Safety Enhancement Program can be viewed on the Web at www.med.umich.edu/psep. Late last year, we hosted a state-wide conference on "Improving Patient Safety in Hospitals: Turning Ideas into Action," highlighting successful implementation of practical changes that enhance safety and reduce adverse events for hospitalized patients.

Our ongoing commitment to research is well demonstrated by the huge construction projects now visible from many vantage points on the medical and central campuses. The Basic Sciences Research Building is on schedule and on budget. To populate it with the next generation of superb scientists, our basic science and clinical department chairs are busily recruiting, assisted by the Biological Sciences Scholars Program funded through the Office of the EVPMA to provide an environment where innovation and creativity are encouraged. Research science is always a competitive marketplace, but our prospects for success are much better than most of our competitors.

The U-M Health System continues to be a vital, vibrant, enormously productive place. On my frequent "walkabout" tours, I continually encounter faculty and staff who are wholly dedicated to what they do and to keeping every aspect of our work at the highest standards of quality for the benefit of patients, students, residents and other trainees. The Health System, and the Medical School that forms its core, is one in which every one of us can take a great deal of pride as we continue to strive for greater success in everything we do.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lazar Greenfield, M.D." The signature is fluid and cursive.

Lazar Greenfield
Interim Executive Vice President for
Medical Affairs