

# D M S ALUMNI NEWS

NEWSLETTER FOR ALUMNAE/I OF THE DIVISION OF MEDICAL SCIENCES

Volume I, Number 1, Summer 1996

## SHOULD AN ORGANIZATION OF GRADUATES OF THE DIVISION OF MEDICAL SCIENCES BE FORMED?

The alumnae/i of the Division of Medical Sciences (DMS) at Harvard Medical School have shared an experience of study and research in biomedical sciences. Many alumnae/i maintain an allegiance to DMS, especially to the department or program with which they were affiliated. Ties to individuals, programs, and scientific disciplines continue to be meaningful as careers and opportunities develop and change.

Some graduates have remained in touch over the years, both with DMS and with some of their colleagues. Many others have indicated that they would like to be brought up to date on major happenings in the programs and administration of the Division and would like to explore the possibility of establishing contacts with faculty, students, and alumnae/i. They would also appreciate periodic news of each other and might even wish to share experiences or offer comments in a newsletter. Several DMS graduates have suggested that it would be valuable to start a DMS alumnae/i organization. If it were to be formed, what would such an organization do for its members and what form should it take?

How do YOU feel about such an organization? Do you think it would be a worthwhile undertaking? How might it benefit you? How would you like to participate? Please let us know your views by completing and returning the enclosed questionnaire as soon as possible.

Harold Amos

## THE DIVISION OF MEDICAL SCIENCES TODAY

Even for DMS alumni who graduated as recently as five years ago, the Division of Medical Sciences in 1996 has a different look and feel than it did while they were students. These differences have made the Division a more visible and integral part of the Longwood Medical Area community.

### • STUDENTS

There are currently 470 students enrolled in the Division and more than 1100 alumni of the Division. During the 1995-1996 academic year, 77 students were awarded the PhD degree; in June 1996, the number was 57. Applications to the Division have increased by over 60% in the last five years, and the class entering in the fall of 1996 is expected to be about 75.

## DMS TODAY CONT.

### • LOCATION

After a rather lengthy migratory period, the offices of the Division are now settled in one side of the top floor of the Medical Education Center (MEC) at Harvard Medical School. The MEC incorporates the extensively remodeled former Building E in a hollow square plan surrounding a covered atrium. The building also contains teaching and student support activities for the medical students, so that HMS and DMS student services are housed under one roof.

### • ADMINISTRATION

The Chairman of the Division now carries the title of Dean for Graduate Education at HMS. In 1995, Dr. Thomas M. Roberts, Professor of Pathology, succeeded Dr. R. John Collier as Chair. The Associate Dean of Graduate Education, Dr. Thomas O. Fox, is the Vice Chair of the Division and the Director of Graduate Studies.

### • PROGRAMS

Programmatic changes and additions have also occurred in the Division. In 1994 a merger of the Triad (formerly the genetics, microbiology and biological chemistry/molecular pharmacology program) and the Cell and Developmental Biology Program formed the Biological and Biomedical Sciences

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Program (BBS). The BBS Program, directed by Dr. Connie Cepko, is the largest of the five DMS programs.

Also new is the Biological Sciences in Public Health Program (BPH), directed by Dr. Dyann Wirth. The BPH program allows students conducting biological research at the Harvard School of Public Health to earn the PhD degree offered through the Faculty of Arts and Sciences.

More familiar to DMS alumni are the three continuing DMS programs: Immunology, directed by Dr. Martin Dorf, Neuroscience, directed by Dr. Jonathan Cohen, and Virology, directed by Dr. Elliott Kieff.

### • DIVISION ACTIVITIES

As the DMS student population has grown, each of the programs has assumed more responsibility for program-specific activities such as retreats, poster sessions, career workshops, journal clubs, and admissions-recruitment weekends. The Division has developed and sponsors activities for all DMS students including a fall registration weekend, a dinner honoring students who have been awarded individual fellowships, and a commencement week reception for degree recipients and their families.

### • PUBLICATIONS

During the last two years, the Division and the five Programs have published a "family" of booklets for recruitment purposes. In addition, programs prepare manuals with more detailed information about faculty research activities for use by students selecting research rotations and by prospective post-doctoral research fellows. The Division has also prepared a booklet specifically intended for prospective minority students and their college advisors.

The Division's monthly newsletter, *The DMS Bulletin*, contains information on program activities, talks and seminars, the University's academic calendar, thesis seminar announcements, and financial and academic information for students and faculty. The Bulletin is presently distributed to all DMS students, faculty, and staff at the end of each month.

### • INTERNET ACCESS

In 1995 the Division of Medical Sciences launched the DMS Home Page on the World Wide Web. The DMS home page provides information on each of the programs, admissions and financial issues, research facilities and affiliates, and life in Boston and the Longwood Medical Area. Admissions and application materials may be requested directly from the Homepage internet address linked up to the

## ===== DMS TODAY CONT. =====

Division's email account. In addition, each of the DMS Programs now has its own home page, all of which are accessible from the DMS Home Page. Printouts of the home page materials may be requested from the DMS Office (432-0162). The addresses are:

The Division of Medical Sciences:

<http://www.med.harvard.edu/dms/>

The Biological and Biomedical Sciences Program (BBS):

<http://www.med.harvard.edu/bbs/>

The Biological Sciences in Public Health Program (BPH):

<http://www.med.harvard.edu/dms/bph/>

The Immunology Program:

<http://www.med.harvard.edu/dms/immunology/>

The Neuroscience Program:

<http://www.med.harvard.edu/dms/neuroscience/>

The Virology Program:

<http://www.med.harvard.edu/dms/virology>

## PH.D. WOMEN PARTICIPATE IN THE WOMEN IN MEDICINE CELEBRATION

Last year marked the 50th anniversary of the admission of women to Harvard Medical School and the 75th anniversary of the admission of women to the Division of Medical Sciences. In contrast to the 12 women who entered HMS in the fall of 1945, in 1920 a lone woman embarked upon a research training program in the Division. Three years later, Annie Stone Minot received her Ph.D. in Physiology from Radcliffe College. By 1945, a total of 13 women had received Ph.D. degrees from DMS departments.

The November 1995 Women in Medicine celebration included DMS students and graduates in two events. The first of these was a panel discussion by and for PhDs on decision-making at transition points in research careers. Participants in the lively and well-attended session were: finishing graduate student Martha Kramer (1995), post-doctoral fellow Dara Gilbert (PhD from UCLA in 1991), Donna Fekete (1984), Assistant Professor of Biology, Boston College, and her husband, Peter Hollenbeck, who is Associate Professor of Neurobiology, HMS. The full professors on the panel

## PH.D. WOMEN CONT.

were: Dyann Wirth, Professor of Tropical Public Health, Harvard School of Public Health, and Roberto Kolter, Professor of Microbiology and Molecular Genetic, HMS. The discussion, which was co-chaired by Professor Joanne Ingwall and Jocelyn Spragg (1969), has generated considerable interest in continuing this effort with discussions on career opportunities and alternative careers.

The second November event focused on the contributions of DMS to the science of medicine, with particular emphasis on research pertinent to women's health. The symposium moderator, Marjorie Lees (1951), Professor of Biochemistry in the Department of Neurology (*Emerita*), presented a brief history of the accomplishments of early women graduates of the Division. Julianne Glowacki (1973), Associate Professor of Orthopedic Surgery, Brigham and Women's Hospital and Director of the new Massachusetts General Hospital Skeletal Biology Research Center, described her studies on "The Role of Marrow Biology in the Pathophysiology of Osteoporosis." Susan Leeman (1958), Professor of Pharmacology, Boston University School of Medicine, discussed "The Peptides Substance P and Neurotensin," and Margaret Moline (1981), Senior Research Associate and Director of Outpatient Services for the Department of Psychiatry, Cornell University Medical School, presented her work on "Premenstrual Syndrome: Interaction of Biological Rhythms."

Both the panel discussion and the symposium were occasions at which enthusiasm was expressed for finding mechanisms to increase the interactions among DMS alumni and between them and current graduate students and post-doctoral research fellows.

## DMS ALUMNAE/I WORKING GROUP

Members of the alumnae/i group that has been discussing the formation of a DMS alumni organization:

Harold Amos, 1952  
 Robert Bondaryk, 1984  
 Donna Fekete, 1984  
 Tom Fox, vice chair, DMS  
 Julianne Glowacki, 1973  
 George Hauser, 1955  
 Laura Hercod, staff, DMS  
 William Holt, 1981  
 Susan Leeman, 1958  
 Marjorie Lees, 1951  
 Marrott Sinex, 1951  
 Jocelyn Spragg, 1969  
 Dennis Vaccaro, 1977



## COUNTWAY LIBRARY IS AVAILABLE TO YOU

DMS graduates may apply for free access and borrowing privileges at the Countway Library. If you are interested, please complete the pink "Application For Borrowing Privileges" form enclosed in this mailing and return it to the Division of Medical Sciences office so that they may confirm your status as a graduate.

## DMS ALUMNAE/I IN THE NEWS

Harold Amos (Microbiology, 1952) received an honorary Doctor of Science degree at Harvard University's 1996 commencement. He was honored both for his contributions to scientific research and for his many efforts to bring minority students into the scientific enterprise.

This past February, Reinier Beeuwkes (Physiology, 1970), a director of four biotechnology companies, gave a presentation to Graduate School of Arts and Sciences graduate students as part of the *Dudley House Career Chats* series.

Mina Bissell (Microbiology, 1969) is the Director of the Life Sciences Division at the Lawrence Berkeley laboratory of the University of California at Berkeley.

Nicholas Cozzarelli (Biochemistry, 1966) is newly installed as the Editor-in-Chief of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Julianne Glowacki (Biochemistry, 1973) is in the process of moving from the Brigham and Women's Hospital to become the first Director of the new Skeletal Biology Research Center at Massachusetts General Hospital.

Peter MacLeish (Neurobiology, 1977) has moved from Cornell University Medical College in New York City to Atlanta, Georgia, where he is Professor of Anatomy at Morehouse School of Medicine and Director of its new Neuroscience Institute

Margaret Moline (Physiology, 1981) was recently named the Director of Outpatient Services for the Department of Psychiatry at New York Hospital-Cornell University Medical School.

### COMING IN FUTURE ISSUES

If DMS alumnae/i do decide to form an organization, the *DMS Alumni Newsletter* will be produced a few times each year. Please use the enclosed questionnaire to let us know what topics you would like to see covered in the Newsletter. Possibilities include: changes in the structure of DMS programs; program and DMS staff and administrative functions; DMS-administered special programs, such as the Harvard-Markey program and summer undergraduate research programs; and resources available through the Countway Library. What would appeal to YOU?

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## ALUMNI NEWS

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