



The University of Michigan John M. Sheldon Allergy Society

Bernard L. Gold, MD, President

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<http://www.med.umich.edu/sheldonsociety/>

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Dear Sheldon Society Member:

The past year has brought many accolades to the University of Michigan Allergy Division and the Allergy Training Program. In this letter I will update you on some of the past year's activities, alumni information and what's new in the Training Program.

2005 DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS

Annual Dinner - This past March, the Sheldon Society Annual Dinner was held in beautiful downtown San Antonio at Boudro's Restaurant on the Riverwalk. The event was attended by over 60 members, spouses and invited guests who enjoyed a wonderful meal and warm fellowship.

Food Allergy Service - The Food Allergy Service (FAS) is progressing into its second year with Marc McMorris, MD as Director. During the first year of its existence, the FAS focused on clinical needs. Patient education materials were created and standardized throughout all Allergy clinics. Collaboration was initiated with the Health Education Resource Center at the UM East Ann Arbor Health Center to increase public availability of educational materials related to allergies and asthma. A FAS website was produced as a community outreach tool. Food allergy and anaphylaxis training sessions continued to be offered to Michigan schools and preschools. Procedures related to providing open food challenges were assessed and expanded. The Allergy Division also collaborated with Educational Services for Nursing and the UM Medical School to hold their first Allergy Update Conference in May of 2005. Objectives for the second year include development of a food allergy center and advancements in research and clinical activities. For inquiries regarding the

FAS, please contact Anne Russell BSN, RN, Food Allergy Program Coordinator, at (734) 936-3660. Her position is funded by the Food Allergy Initiative of New York.

UM Food Allergy Service:

www.med.umich.edu/foodallergy

Food Allergy Initiative:

www.foodallergyinitiative.org

Mastocytosis Research - Under the leadership of Cem Akin, MD, PhD, the Allergy Division has developed one of the nation's few programs specializing in the diagnosis, treatment and research of mastocytosis and related mast cell disorders. Working with members of the Comprehensive Cancer Center, Dr. Akin's group performed detailed bone marrow examinations to identify mast cell disorders.

Akin and his laboratory team also performed molecular studies on patient samples, identifying genetic mutations that may prove useful in targeting future treatments. Because mastocytosis is caused by mutations in a gene that encodes an enzyme called tyrosine kinase, Akin and his colleagues are hopeful that TK inhibitor drugs used in other diseases might be useful against mast cell disorders. The first clinical research protocols will begin soon. Akin's efforts are funded in part by a grant from The Mastocytosis Society, comprised solely of individual donations given by people with the disease.

Dr. Akin is also involved nationally and internationally with helping to standardize both the clinical descriptions of mastocytosis and other mast cell disorders, and the diagnostics used to distinguish them from other conditions. As co-organizer of an international conference in Vienna in November, and as chair of the mastocytosis task force of the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and (Continued)

Immunology, Dr. Akin hopes these efforts will give other physicians the tools needed to help mastocytosis patients worldwide.

TRAINING PROGRAM

New Fellows - The Training Program's incoming fellows are Drs. Susan Hungness and Robert Keeton. Dr. Hungness received her medical degree in 2002 from Rush Medical College in Chicago where she also completed her residency in Internal Medicine in June 2005. Dr. Keeton graduated in 2002 from the University of Mississippi and completed his residency in Internal Medicine at the University of Florida, Gainesville in June 2005. Both fellows will complete their A/I training in June 2007.

Second year fellows, Dr. David Chaffin from the University of Tennessee College of Medicine and Dr. Travis Miller from the University of California, Los Angeles, School of Medicine are scheduled to complete their A/I training on June 30, 2006. We are pleased to announce that Drs. Chaffin and Miller were selected to present their research at this year's ACAAI Annual Meeting held this month in Anaheim, California.



TRAVIS MILLER



CURT CHAFFIN

2005 Graduates - Drs. Alan P. Baptist and Anjana (Annie) A. Khuntia successfully completed their training in June 2005 and both entered academic careers. Dr. Baptist accepted an Assistant Professor position in the Dept. of Internal Medicine at Wayne State University while Dr. Khuntia was appointed as an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Chicago. Both Drs. Baptist and Khuntia were selected to present their research at the ACAAI Annual Meeting held in March, 2005.

Training Support - Although many programs are reducing their funded positions, we have had wonderful applicants and are trying to maintain the number of fellows we can train at two per

year. Due to the highly variable nature of trainee funding support, we have applied for supplemental funds from many resources to maintain the program. This includes an application for a 2006 ACAAI Training Grant, which would allow us to adequately fund one fellowship position. Any support we can obtain from Sheldon members is always welcome.

MEMBER NEWS - Sentinel

Dr. Robert G. Lovell, a founding member of the John M. Sheldon Society, passed December 31, 2004 after a lengthy battle with cancer. Many of you may remember that Dr. Lovell was one of the first Allergy Division clinical faculty members. Dr. Lovell also served as Assistant Dean in the U-M Medical School in the late 1950's. Following his retirement, Dr. Lovell remained active in the Sheldon Society, and kept close contact with many members. Dr. Lovell is remembered as a very likeable and outgoing individual with a true passion for the field of Allergy.

Lawrence (Larry) Preuss, Jr., MD passed away peacefully in his home on June 29, 2005 after a lengthy battle with cancer. Dr. Preuss completed his residency in 1963 and was a founding member of the Sheldon Society.

ENDOWMENT FUND UPDATE

To help support the training program fellowship position, we continue to seek your contributions to the Endowment Fund. As you are aware, this fund was established 9 years ago to ensure continual funding for at least one Allergy Fellow position. Each year as we move closer to meeting this objective, it is only through your continued support of the U-M Allergy Division that we will achieve this important goal.

How You Can Help

Gifts - by making a planned gift or via a bequest. These gifts are wonderful ways to commit to the promises that lie ahead in the field of Allergy and Clinical Immunology. Your **charitable remainder trust** or charitable gift annuity provides income during your lifetime as well as the assurance that your gift will have an impact on the future of medicine. These giving opportunities have been well received because of the high distribution rate, simplicity and tax benefits. *(Continued)*

Endowments - a gift for a permanent endowment is a gift forever, a gift that will generate distributions to benefit the Division in perpetuity. What does this mean? It means that the Allergy Division Endowment Fund, year by year, will be able to help more and more Fellows year by year complete their fellowship.

If you are interested in establishing your own perpetual fund or if you would like to discuss the tax advantages or income possibilities of making a gift now or through your will, you may do so by contacting Heather Renshaw West, Director of Development for the Department of Internal Medicine. Heather is available at your convenience to assist you with establishing your fund and also with making year-end stock transfers. For more information, please contact Heather at (734) 734-647-1619 or (toll-free) at 866-860-0026.

For details on these programs and others, please visit the "Office of Medical Development and Alumni Relations" website at

<http://www.medicineatmichigan.org/HowCanIHelp/>

DUES & CONTRIBUTION RESPONSE FORM

New!! - This year Sheldon Society members can make annual dues payments and endowment contributions **online** using your credit card, via a secure U-M website. If you would like to elect this method please visit this website: <https://cgi.www.umich.edu/cents-bin/cents-open/mcado2>.

Simply complete your personal information, indicate the amount for the gift, then under the "Gift Designation" drop-down menu, select one of the following:

- For dues: "Sheldon Society Annual Dues"
- For a gift: "Sheldon Society Endowment"

Or ... If you prefer to mail your dues and/or endowment gift to the Allergy Division, please complete the enclosed response form and return it along with your annual dues payment of \$100. Reminder: dues are optional for retired members.

2006 AAAAI ANNUAL DINNER PLANS ARE UNDERWAY!

Plans are underway for the 2006 John M. Sheldon Society Annual Dinner Meeting, to be held in Miami Beach, Florida during the annual AAAAI meeting. The tentative date is Sunday evening, March 5, 2006, with the location TBA. This annual dinner gathering provides a wonderful opportunity for members to leisurely socialize, renew old Sheldon acquaintances and make new ones. **Remember: the cost of dinner for you and your spouse or invited guest is covered by your annual dues.** Additional plans are forthcoming.

Again, I would like to thank you for your attention to this newsletter and also for your continued support of the Allergy Division. Please do not hesitate to give me a call at my office at (734) 764-8304 or you may contact Gwen Sharper in the Division Chief's office at (734) 647-2777 if you have any questions or need assistance.

Best wishes for the Holiday Season



Bernard L. Gold, MD, President



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