

Enlightened Beginnings

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By July, a fresh academic year has begun. Graduation ceremonies have concluded, and eager neophytes replace competent new alumni. A lofty college senior is now a lowly freshman medical student, the senior medical student has become a first-year house officer, and the chief resident is now a junior associate. We, colleagues all, honor our new graduates and welcome our incoming residents.

We are building on strong foundations. We, at the New Jersey Medical School (NJMS), are proud to be the first medical school in the history of this state. We began as Seton Hall College of Medicine, were chartered in 1954, and opened our doors in 1956. Taken over by the state in 1965, we became New Jersey College of Medicine before arriving in 1970 at our present name NJMS. The first dermatology residency training program in this state was begun at NJMS in 1984 by the first full-time head of dermatology, Robert A. Schwartz, MD, MPH, vice chairman W. Clark Lambert, MD, founding father Roger Harrison Brodtkin, MD, MS, and former alumnus and faculty member George Kihiczak, MD.

We are proud that every resident involved in our program has passed the American Board of Dermatology examination on the first attempt. In 1989, W. Clark Lambert, MD, established the first dermatopathology residency training program in this state. He is again hosting the upcoming 15th Combined Skin Pathology Course at NJMS, as he did so successfully for many years in the late 1970s and 1980s. Under Muriel W. Lambert, MD, and W. Clark Lambert, MD, the dermatology research program continues with full National Institutes of Health funding, employing the latest technology not only for DNA repair, but also for image analysis studies of cutaneous tumors. The scholarly activities of the NJMS dermatology faculty and residents continue at a high level, as evidenced by a publication rate second to none at this medical school. We are pleased that academic links in Europe and Japan have been established resulting in collaborative efforts, with W. Clark Lambert, MD, favoring physicians in Western Europe, and Robert A. Schwartz, MD, concentrating on those in Central and Eastern Europe.

Our medical school is also fortunate to have the State of New Jersey provide \$350 million for new construction on this already modern campus. Both the new International Center for Public Health and University Behavior Center should be impressive. We will also have a new home for our Cancer Center. Presently, we have eight architectural firms working on multiple projects. While our University Hospital, like most urban academic hospital centers, is squeezed by poor reimbursements and deleterious HMO contracts, it is now under superb new management and moving rapidly forward. Our medical school is extraordinarily healthy, with new faculty and staff arriving daily, and more to be recruited soon. Thus, we begin the new academic year with optimism and eagerness.

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