

The  
**Vibe@**  
The School of Medicine

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*This is a publication of the University of Massachusetts Medical School Office of Alumni and Parent Relations.*

## Alumni Profile | Gregory Ciottone, MD, FACEP



**Specialty:** Disaster Medicine  
**Year of graduation:** 1991

FOR GREGORY CIOTTONE, MD '91, FACEP, Sept. 11, 2001, was more than a jarring national tragedy; it was a turning point for him professionally and for the field of disaster medicine in which he works. As commander of the federal Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT) Massachusetts-2, he led one of the first disaster teams—which included many UMMS staff—that were on hand at Ground Zero in New York City.

Dr. Ciottone first became intrigued by disaster medicine while studying under and, later working alongside Richard Aghababian, MD, FACEP, professor of emergency medicine. His expertise progressed along the same trajectory as the then-burgeoning field, which, in the 1990s, was evolving without any clear parameters. All that would change in 2001.

"At Ground Zero, I realized that there needed to be more structure to this field of disaster medicine," said Ciottone.

Now a leader in disaster medicine and humanitarian initiatives, Ciottone was a chief resident at Harvard Medical School before joining the faculty there in 1999. He led the Division of International Disaster and Emergency Medicine at UMMS and became the editor of *Disaster Medicine*, the field's first textbook. Today, he is the director of the Division of Disaster Medicine at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and chairman of the Disaster Medicine Section at Harvard Medical School.

Among many federal appointments

and international collaborations, Ciottone cites working hand-in-hand with Mikhail Gorbachev to build healthcare infrastructure in the former Soviet Union as particularly rewarding. However, the children of Haiti are who occupy his "heart and soul." Ciottone and his wife, Amalia Ciottone, RN, an internationally recognized healthcare administrator, are medical directors of two nonprofit organizations there: Be Like Brit, founded by Leonard and Cherylann Gengel of Rutland, Mass., whose daughter Britney was killed in the 2010 earthquake, and Child in Hand.

"The Gengels are close to my heart," Ciottone said. "Amalia and I will run that clinic for the rest of our lives." ■

**Anyone with news to share is encouraged to send their class notes to alumni@umassmed.edu. You may also submit notes by logging in to the NEW Alumni Community website at <http://alumni.umassmed.edu> and clicking on "Class Notes" under the Alumni Network heading.**

# The Vibe@

Summer 2012

## The School of Medicine

### UMMS MAINTAINS ITS TOP-10 RANK

Consistently hailed as one of the top medical schools in America, UMass Medical School (UMMS) once again ranked highly in primary care education among the nation's 126 medical schools and 23 schools of osteopathic medicine in *U.S. News & World Report's* 2013 rankings. UMMS, which ranked seventh, has landed near the top of the category since these rankings were first published in 1994.

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**THE ALUMNI COMMUNITY WEBSITE IS BRAND NEW! Check it out at: <http://alumni.umassmed.edu>.**

### High-Efficiency Power Plant Fuels \$5.6 Million Rebate and Reduced Emissions

IN APRIL, UMass Medical School was awarded \$5.6 million from National Grid—the largest incentive of its kind given by the company in the commonwealth—for an energy-efficient, 14,000-square-foot expansion of its power plant.

At the heart of the expansion is a high-efficiency, 7.5-megawatt, gas-fired combustion turbine and an associated heat recovery system. Since natural gas burns cleaner than oil, and the new jet turbine is highly efficient, the expanded power plant will boost the Medical

School's capacity to generate electricity on its Worcester campus while reducing its green-house gas emissions. The power plant also provides a source of energy and power for UMass Memorial Medical Center's University Campus.

The expansion, built to support the 500,000-square-foot Albert Sherman Center research and education facility currently under construction, will accommodate the increased demand for electricity, steam and chilled water expected when the state-of-the-art building is completed in December 2012. ■

### SOM Alumna Gives Keynote Speech at Second-year Oath



Members of the SOM Class of 2014 reaffirmed their commitment to medicine and their patients, reciting an oath in front of family, friends and faculty during the Second-year Oath ceremony on March 8 at Mechanics Hall in Worcester. Keynote speaker **Christina H. Hernon, MD '02**, assistant professor of

emergency medicine, shared many anecdotes from her own experience and from others she surveyed in preparation for her talk, focusing on how doctors who don't take the time to connect with their patients make their patients feel invisible. "It is not too hard to change the patient experience in medicine. All it really requires is that you vow to do so," she said.

## Nobel Laureate Urges Class of 2012 to “Go Out and Save the World”

LIBERIAN PRESIDENT Ellen Johnson Sirleaf sent 111 new School of Medicine (SOM) graduates into the next phase of their medical careers with an impassioned plea to use their skill and compassion to “save the world” during her address at the 39th UMass Worcester Commencement exercises on Sunday, June 3.

“We must have the courage to be brave in action. Use your knowledge and skills, continue to make a difference. For that is your calling,” said Johnson Sirleaf, a 2011 Nobel Peace Prize winner. “You are the counterpoint to the pain of the world.”

In addition to Johnson Sirleaf, one student from each school spoke. SOM graduate James Ferguson, MD, told



his classmates that a great deal of his education came from them, saying “I wish you everything.”

This year’s class of graduating students was the largest in UMass Worcester history, totaling 248 graduates. In addition to the MDs awarded by the SOM, the Graduate School of Nursing awarded 50 master’s degrees, six post-master’s certificates, four doctor of nursing practice

degrees and six PhDs; and the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences awarded three master’s degrees and 64 PhDs. Four MD/PhDs also were awarded.

**Full coverage of Commencement 2012 activities can be found online at [www.umassmed.edu/news/commencement/2012](http://www.umassmed.edu/news/commencement/2012).** ■

## Approval of Fourth-year Curriculum Marks a Milestone

IN FEBRUARY, the Educational Policy Committee unanimously approved the final phase of the new School of Medicine (SOM) curriculum, symbolizing the culmination of years of careful work by more than 500 members of the UMass Medical School community.

The goal of redesigning the curriculum

was to completely re-imagine medical education from top to bottom with involvement from as many stakeholders as possible. The resulting Learner-centered Integrated Curriculum, or LInC, incorporates innovations in teaching and learning as well as the latest national standards for medical education, and is designed to address the six competencies required of all SOM graduates: physician as professional, scientist, communicator, clinical problem solver, patient and community advocate, and person.

“The completion of LInC illuminates the collaborative environment of UMass

Medical School,” said Terence R. Flotte, MD, the *Celia and Isaac Haidak Professor of Medicine* and dean of the School of Medicine, executive deputy chancellor, provost and professor of pediatrics.

The newly approved fourth-year curriculum, called Advanced Studies, begins in May 2014. In addition to the 24 electives, the Sub-Internship and the Transition to Internship program requirements in the fourth year, three new courses have been created: Emergency Clinical Problem Solver, Advanced Biomedical and Translational Sciences, and the Capstone course. ■

### THE POWER OF PARTICIPATION

The impact of alumni support is critical to the student experience and leads directly to exceptional patient care in Massachusetts and beyond. Every gift, no matter the size, has an impact. Please consider joining your friends and fellow alumni by supporting the Alumni Annual Fund Campaign.

Gifts may be made online (<http://w3.umassmed.edu/OnlineDonation>) or by mailing your contribution to:

UMass Medical School  
Development Office  
333 South Street  
Shrewsbury, MA 01545

### “Speed Mentoring” Helps Students Glimpse Their Futures

Current SOM students got a clearer picture of how their future professional lives might look during a fun “speed mentoring” event held on campus in April. During timed, informal discussions and a subsequent reception, students met with alumni who specialize in gastroenterology, biopharmaceuticals, dermatology, internal medicine and emergency medicine to discuss career planning, life after medical school and choosing specialties. Alumni mentors included Elenie Bartzokis, MD ’86, Louis Kuchnir, MD, PhD (Residency Program, 1998-2001), Kerry McCabe, MD ’96, Andrew Miller, MD ’79, Elyssa Pellish, MD ’01, and Randy Pellish, MD ’01. The event was organized by the Office of Alumni Relations and the UMMS Learning Communities. ■

## Celebrating Reunion 2012

NEARLY 150 School of Medicine (SOM) alumni attended Reunion activities held on May 5. Attendees from the classes of 1977, 1982, 1987, 1992, 1997, 2002 and 2007, reunited and celebrated during the day-long festivities and activities, including a hard-hat tour of the Albert Sherman Center. Alumni also visited new classroom and laboratory spaces, and learned about various curriculum-specific initiatives, such as the Learning Communities. Chancellor Michael F. Collins provided a school update to all attendees and, with his wife Maryellen, hosted the classes of 1977, 1982 and 1987 for dinner at Grenon House, the Medical School’s new residence in Worcester.

As part of Reunion activities, alumni celebrating reunion collectively donated more than \$220,000 through a new Reunion Class Gifts Campaign. Combined, members of the Reunion classes established six endowed scholarships and one current-use scholarship in honor of their graduating classes, in addition to three family endowed scholarships. Other gifts were made to the medical education fund, which supports the creation of innovative programs and state-of-the-art facilities, curriculum development and the overall

operation of the Medical School. The Reunion Class Gifts Campaign continues until June 30 and alumni can contribute by visiting [www.umassmed.edu/development](http://www.umassmed.edu/development) and clicking on the Make a Gift button. Results to date:

#### Class of 1977

Class Chairs: Mary Tse, MD, and Lena Dohlman-Gerhart, MD, MPH  
Participation: 47 percent  
Dollars Raised: \$31,350

#### Class of 1982

Class Chair: Nico Tsanotelis, MD  
Participation: 38 percent  
Dollars Raised: \$87,725

#### Class of 1987

Class Chairs: James Hoye, MD, and Jay Sorgman, MD  
Participation: 43 percent  
Dollars Raised: \$32,542

#### Class of 1992

Class Chairs: Christine (Leach) Carey, MD, and Lanu Stoddart, MD  
Participation: 38 percent  
Dollars Raised: \$16,750

#### Class of 1997

Class Chair: Maureen Layden, MD, MPH  
Participation: 33 percent  
Dollars Raised: \$26,638

#### Class of 2002

Class Chair: Jeffrey Gold, MD  
Participation: 42 percent  
Dollars Raised: \$21,520

#### Class of 2007

Class Chair: Al Albano, MD  
Participation: 24 percent  
Dollars Raised: \$6,070



▲ Members of the Class of 1987 with Chancellor Michael F. Collins during Reunion activities. Additional photographs may be viewed online at <http://teplanskyphotography.zenfolio.com/reunion>.

## Relief and Celebration at Match Day 2012

FEW MOMENTS can so dramatically change the emotions of an entire room as when the clock strikes noon on Match Day at UMass Medical School (UMMS). The 2012 Match Day was no different.

“Fifty-five percent of you are going into the core fields of primary medicine,” said Mai-Lan Rogoff, MD, associate dean for student affairs, to the room full of anxious and excited students and their families. She added that the percentage jumps to 70 if the fields of obstetrics and emergency medicine are included. “Bravo to you.”

Half of the 114 students in the class who matched will be doing their residencies in Massachusetts, including 24 who will be staying at UMMS. Others will be going as far as California, Utah and Texas; one matched in the U.S. military. Of the 63 students going



into traditional primary care fields, 20 will be doing internal medicine residencies, 19 in pediatrics and 15 in family medicine. Nine others will be doing a combined medicine and pediatrics residency. ■

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2012

September 13  
Convocation  
10 a.m. – noon  
Campus Green  
UMass Medical School

September 13  
Investiture  
5 – 6 p.m.  
Campus Green  
UMass Medical School

September 14  
White Coat Ceremony and Reception  
3:30 – 5:30 p.m.  
Campus Green  
UMass Medical School

May 4, 2013  
Alumni Reunion  
Celebrating class years:  
1978, 1983, 1988, 1993,  
1998, 2003 & 2008  
UMass Medical School

Event information can be found on the alumni website at <http://alumni.umassmed.edu>.