NEW DEAN INCREASES COLLABORATION BETWEEN SCHOOL UNITS

Leading a New Era of Medical Excellence

Pascal Goldschmidt, a cardiologist and scientist with a distinguished reputation for innovative research that applies genomics and cell therapy to the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of coronary artery disease, assumed the role of senior vice president for medical affairs and dean of the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine in April.

He is a native of Brussels, Belgium, who graduated summa cum laude from the Medical School of Brussels and trained at the Erasmus Hospital of the Universite Libre de Bruxelles.

His parents, who were teenag- ers in Brussels during World War II when Allied tanks drove through the city to liber- ate Belgium, strongly encour- aged him to go the United States to pursue a medical career. “The tradition was to go to the US if you wanted to seriously practice medicine,” Goldschmidt says. After completing his studies at the University of South Carolina and residency work at Union Memorial Hospital in Baltimore, he began working in a research laboratory at The Johns Hopkins University. Later, he entered the clinical fellowship training pro- gram in cardiology at Hopkins and joined the faculty. After 11 years at Hopkins, Goldschmidt joined The Ohio State University to become director of the Heart and Lung Institute and the cardiology divi- sion. He built the institute from scratch, transforming it into one of the largest research centers in the world.

In 2000 Goldschmidt left Ohio State for Duke University to become chief of the cardiology division and professor of genetics, cell biology, and pathology. He became chair of Duke’s Department of Medicine three years later.

Under Goldschmidt, Duke’s Department of Medicine rose from eighth to third in National Institutes of Health funding, "What we did was to create a team of leaders within the department who were able to codetermine a philosophy of success. By creating clear expectations that were reachable by the faculty, everyone grew to become more productive, more effective, and more successful," he says. “It wasn’t solely the recruit- ment of new faculty. It was also the amplification of the intrinsic abil- ity of the faculty that were already there to become more successful. I think that at the Miller School of Medicine, the same opportunity exists.”

Goldschmidt will oversee an annual budget of more than $900 million and a staff of more than 7,000. He is in the process of holding a series of meetings with faculty, alumni, and staff to gain their insights on the medical school. “Faculty and staff are absolutely essential for the success of our mission,” he says. “Everyone contributes.”

“I have the opportunity to meet the people I’m working with and for,” continues the dean. “I really enjoy having dialogues with the people who work with me. I believe in building teams. “It’s all about people. We need interaction in order to thrive.” Feedback from faculty, trainees, and staff will help the new dean form his vision for the future of the Miller School of Medicine.

Goldschmidt points out that he would not be a very good student if he did not study his subject care- fully. So expect any changes at the Miller School to come effectively but carefully, after much deliberation. “I like to really discover the main strengths of a specific place,” he says. “It would not be a good strategy to come in with a pre- conceived radical plan.”

That isn’t to say he doesn’t have a clear vision of what he wants from the school. “There is not a second of my waking life that I am not thinking and dreaming of a strategic plan,” Goldschmidt says. “While I am committed to keeping an ambitious momentum, I also realize that delayed gratifica- tion is sometimes necessary.”

One new initiative that requires extensive interaction among all departments at the Miller School of Medicine will be to expand the university’s encompassing departments from bioscience to biotechnology. “I see genomics—the scientific consequence of the human genome project—as one area that we’re going to enhance substantially. It will be the rains by which various groups can connect. Broad-based science is extraordinarily helpful in building bridges among groups,” the dean says.

Cardiology will remain a focus for Goldschmidt as well. “It is still the greatest cause of not only death but also morbidity and disability that we have.”

He also intends to position the school as a leader in global health. “The geographic position of Miami—by the ocean, in between four continents—provides an opportunity for UM to become a leader in what has become really one of the greatest advancing parts of medicine, which is global health of the world.”

Goldschmidt will continue to work closely with the leadership at Jackson Memorial Hospital, to expand the school’s ability to deliver outstanding care to the people of Miami-Dade County, and to train the doctors who will lead the medical profession for years to come. He has also inherited sev- eral major projects, including the newly completed Clinical Research Institute, and the University Hospital and Biomedical Research Institute, both in the planning stages.

“My philosophy is that if we deliver, folks will believe in us,” remarks Goldschmidt. “There is little doubt that we’re able to show results that will be pleasing, and as a con- sequence, I’m quite optimistic for the future of the Miller School of Medicine.”
‘Baby Docs’ Program Now 25 Years Old

In 1981 the University of Miami launched the Honors Program in Medicine, with eight of the brightest and most promising high school students from around the country, getting an early start on their medical careers.

One of the first students was Billie Fyfe, who has been a practicing cardiologist at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine. Fyfe is one of the few students who has been part of the program since its inception.

“I was very grateful to have been selected for the program,” Fyfe said. “It was a great opportunity to get a head start on my medical career.”

The program is still going strong today, with hundreds of students participating each year. Students typically take part in research, community service, and volunteer work at local hospitals.

“The program has been a great success,” said Robert Hinkley, PhD, associate dean for admissions. “In the 25 years of its existence, its graduates have gone on to lead excellent careers in medicine. And the accomplishments of the first ‘baby docs’ attest to the program’s success.”

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the ‘baby docs’ program at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine. Hinkley, center, with the first graduates of the program, from left to right, Gregg, Fyfe, Chao, Lee, Lambaise, Mahmoud, James, and Liu.

The Honors Program in Medicine was launched in 1981 to help train the next generation of great University of Miami Miller School of Medicine physicians, contact Rebecca Rawson, PhD, at 305-243-6256 or rawson@med.miami.edu.
Jonathan T. “Jack” Lord, MD, and his wife, Alice, strongly believe in the power of higher education to create opportunities for students to achieve their dreams—so much so, that the couple recently bequeathed their estate to support their respective alma maters.

Lord, who graduated from the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine in 1978, has committed $5 million in unrestricted funding to support the University. “Education created opportunities for us and for our children,” says Lord. “I know how important it is for an organization to receive unrestricted funds, and my wife and I wanted to do anything we could to support the University and help to get others involved in giving to UM.”

Lord has been a part of the University of Miami family for many years. His mother, Lillian Lord, worked in the fundraising office at UM for two years while he was in medical school. During that time, she was active in gaining support for the University’s efforts against child abuse.

A Very Personal Scholarship Fund

The late Lillian Gong, MD ’62, was by all accounts a compassionate woman who never forgot her humble background. She often vowed that someday she would help other young Asian women realize their dream of attending medical school.

And she did, by creating the Helen Han Scholarship Fund. The daughter of Chinese immigrants who settled in Miami during the 1920s and ran a small grocery store in the Overtown area, Gong was a quiet, introspective woman with an innate ability to understand people.

“She could walk in a person’s shoes and immediately understand the need to help them,” recalls Gong’s sister, Mary Jo Gehin Cemins, MD, her self a 1962 graduate of the medical school. “She just had that extra sense about her.”

Gong decided to pursue a career as a lab research technician following graduation from Wayne College in Macon, Georgia, where she was president of the student body. She began her career working in biochemistry research at New York University’s Bellevue Medical Center.

Cemins recalls telling her sister that she had been accepted to the University of Miami medical school. “You are smarter than most of the guys at Bellevue,” she told Gong “You should rethink your dream.” Gong did and entered UM. She was a member of Alpha Omega Alpha, the national honor medical society.

Lord was president of the student body. He began his career working as a lab research technician following graduation from Wayne College in Macon, Georgia, where she was president of the student body. She began her career working in biochemistry research at New York University’s Bellevue Medical Center.

Cemins recalls telling her sister that she had been accepted to the University of Miami medical school. “You are smarter than most of the guys at Bellevue,” she told Gong “You should rethink your dream.” Gong did and entered UM. She was a member of Alpha Omega Alpha, the national honor medical society. Today, he continues to be involved in University initiatives. As the chief clinical strategy and innovation officer of Humana, the University’s primary health care provider, Lord helped to establish a new health services research center. The center will combine the efforts of the University and Humana to devise new ways to prevent disease and manage chronic illness.

“The University has seen tremendous progress, and the community is dynamic and growing,” Lord says. “I truly see UM being an international leader.”

Training Florida’s Physicians

The expertise and excellence of the University of Miami medical school will be reaching beyond Miami-Dade County with the signing of a historic agreement by Florida Atlantic University (FAU), the Miller School of Medicine, and Boca Raton Community Hospital.

The agreement will create a regional academic medical center in Palm Beach County that should go a long way toward alleviating an expected physician shortage in Florida by expanding both undergraduate and graduate medical education, or residencies. Adding residency opportunities has proven to be the most effective way to increase the number of physicians in a region because doctors are likely to settle where they receive their graduate training. Local legislators have long argued that the state doesn’t train enough young physicians to meet the needs in the state, particularly in Palm Beach County. Currently, a group of UM medical students attends the first two years of medical school on FAU’s Boca Raton campus before moving to the University’s medical campus for their final two years. The agreement calls for expanding the two-year program to a full four-year track in Boca, with clinical rotations at Boca Raton Community Hospital.

The expanded program meets the state goal for more medical education opportunities with- out the expense of starting a new medical school.

Many of those physicians will be trained as part of the graduate medical education program to be established at Boca Raton Community Hospital, with an estimated 125 medical residents in the first year. To train the residents, the University of Miami Medical Group will establish a clinical faculty practice on the regional campus.

“The best kind of agreement brings together not only academic centers but the community, people who are familiar with the type of environment our young doctors may one day practice in,” says University of Miami’s President Donna E. Shalala.

A Very Personal Scholarship Fund

The late Lillian Gong, MD ’62, was by all accounts a compassionate woman who never forgot her humble background. She often vowed that someday she would help other young Asian women realize their dream of attending medical school.

She went on to earn a master’s in public health from the University of California, Berkeley. She returned to Miami as the associate director of the Comprehensive Health Care Project at UM, the forerunner of today’s Mailman Center for Child Development. In 1970 Gong relocated to Los Angeles, where she worked as a pediatrician in a child and youth clinic. At the time of her death, she was chief of the Central District Health Center of Los Angeles County.

Helen Han, a third-year medical student, is a recipient of the scholarship. “Being one of three East Asians in a class of 140, I take great pride in my heritage and feel honored that two strong and ambitious Asian-American physicians have made it possible for more Asian-American women like myself to benefit from their success,” she says.

About 50 students have applied for the new cancer biology PhD program at the school. The first five students start classes this fall. The new degree program is designed to complement the new National Institutes of Health Roadmap, geared to take the most promising findings of basic science and quickly turn them into lifesaving treatments for patients.

Alumnus Donation Enhances Education

University of Miami Miller School of Medicine alumni will be proud to know that the dean’s cup from the School of Law in March was, on top of the lectures and rotations we attend every day, medical students have been extremely busy working together on a wide-range of projects, from starting student organizations that focus on human rights to planning renovations to the student lounge to there’s a more comfortable place to relax.

The theme of this year’s medical student convention was “preparing physicians for tomorrow.” The keynote speaker at the convention was our new dean, Dr. Pascal Goldschmidt.

The first and second-year students took in seminars on various topics including what to expect in their third year of med school, info on handling finances, and opportunities for learning medicine abroad.

Third-year students filled-in their applications for residency training and attended a dinner event

STUDENT VOICE

A Very Personal Scholarship Fund

The late Lillian Gong, MD ’62, was by all accounts a compassionate woman who never forgot her humble background. She often vowed that someday she would help other young Asian women realize their dream of attending medical school.

She went on to earn a master’s in public health from the University of California, Berkeley. She returned to Miami as the associate director of the Comprehensive Health Care Project at UM, the forerunner of today’s Mailman Center for Child Development. In 1970 Gong relocated to Los Angeles, where she worked as a pediatrician in a child and youth clinic. At the time of her death, she was chief of the Central District Health Center of Los Angeles County.

Helen Han, a third-year medical student, is a recipient of the scholarship. “Being one of three East Asians in a class of 140, I take great pride in my heritage and feel honored that two strong and ambitious Asian-American physicians have made it possible for more Asian-American women like myself to benefit from their success,” she says.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Department of Medical Education now produces podcasts. Students subscribe to the school’s RSS feed and using free software, they can automatically download the latest files and import them into portable players, such as Apple’s new video iPod. Students will be able to view lectures they couldn’t attend or review them when they’re on the go.

About 50 students have applied for the new cancer biology PhD program at the school. The first five students start classes this fall. The new degree program is designed to complement the new National Institutes of Health Roadmap, geared to take the most promising findings of basic science and quickly turn them into lifesaving treatments for patients.

At the Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science with local physicians who were providing insights into their specialties.

The second-year students quizzed themselves at the library to study for the board exams, while first-year students applied for positions in student organizations and committees. As the semester wound down, 147 fourth-year medical students anxiously awaited to learn where they will spend their years of residency training during March. According to Sojo, the medical school’s newsletter, more than a quarter of the Class of 2006 will stay in Miami for their residency training at UM/Jackson Memorial Hospital. More than a third of this year’s graduating class will enter primary care fields such as internal medicine, pediatrics, and family medicine.

Alumnus Donation Enhances Education

University of Miami Miller School of Medicine alumni will be proud to know that the dean’s cup from the School of Law in March was, on top of the lectures and rotations we attend every day, medical students have been extremely busy working together on a wide-range of projects, from starting student organizations that focus on human rights to planning renovations to the student lounge to there’s a more comfortable place to relax.

The theme of this year’s medical student convention was “preparing physicians for tomorrow.” The keynote speaker at the convention was our new dean, Dr. Pascal Goldschmidt.

The first and second-year students took in seminars on various topics including what to expect in their third year of med school, info on handling finances, and opportunities for learning medicine abroad.

Third-year students filled-in their applications for residency training and attended a dinner event
ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

M.P. “Mickey” Demos, MD ’57

Profession: Urologist

Accomplishments: I was the Medical Alumni Association’s first president, the first medical alumnus elected to the UM Board of Trustees, the first med student in Iron Arrow, and the first alumnus member of the Founder’s Society at UM, a giving society for donors of $25,000 and above.

Medical School Experience and Recollections: I’m proud to be a Miller School alumnus. During my internship at St. Luke’s Hospital in Chicago, no one there knew that Miami had a med school. Now 50 years later, the entire world knows about the great medical center at the University of Miami.

I’ll never forget the first words of our first lecture on the first day of medical school in the fall of ’53. Dr. Paff opened his gross anatomy lecture by saying, “Students, welcome to the world’s most honored profession—medicine.” And how right he was! Years later, I faced the difficult task of being Dr. Paff’s physician and treating him for cancer.

I graduated from the University of Miami School of Law in ’86. I was a clinical professor at the School of Medicine and an adjunct professor at the law school. I taught medical law to address the medical malpractice crisis. It’s frustrating that physicians must pay enormous premiums to protect their life’s work.

Where I Am Now: After visiting the farm in Greece where my mother was born, my wife and I fell in love with the place. We’re now refurbishing the farm. My great grandfather built it in 1842 from the stone of nearby mountains. The farm is a small village with four houses built by four brothers, and a church built in 1888 still used today. We have an amazing view of the Mediterranean Sea, only three miles away.

After arriving in Greece, the only urologist in the state we live in approached me, asking for help in seeing patients and assisting in the operating room. I volunteered and eventually it led to opening a private practice in Sparta, 40 miles north from home. Medical school alumni are welcome to come see me in Sparta and I’d be happy to show them the “real” Greece!

Send Us Your News

Submissions should be sent to Class Notes Editor, Post Office Box 016960 (R100), Miami, Florida 33101. News can also be submitted by email at alumni@med.miami.edu. Content may be edited for clarity and space.

Richard Pitch, MD ’00 is a bio-safety specialist assisting in preventing the proliferation of biological weapons in Russia. He is co-editor of the Encyclopedia of Bioterrorism Defense.

Jennifer Marinari Heffernan, MD ’01 is an assistant professor at the University of North Texas Health Science Center in Fort Worth.

Gina D’Amato, MD ’98 spoke on “Concepts and Controversies in Oncology Drug Development” at the Bear Sterns 18th Annual Healthcare Conference in New York City.

Karl Dhana, MD ’98 is medical director of the Manly and Stanley M. Katz Seniors Campus, a living and health care community for seniors in West Palm Beach. He is on the faculty at the Miller School of Medicine and Nova Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Craig McFarland, MD ’92 is staff anesthesiologist at Brooke Army Medical Center in Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

Vincent Pedre, MD ’99 is in private practice in New York and specializes in integrative medicine.

Eric Carlson, DMD, MD ’00 is a fellow of the American College of Surgeons.

Howard Maccabee, PhD, MD ’78 retired from private practice. He co-founded Northern California’s first stereotactic radiosurgery unit at a community hospital.

Jennifer Marinari Heffernan, MD ’01 is an assistant professor at the University of North Texas Health Science Center in Fort Worth.

Craig McFarland, MD ’98 is staff anesthesiologist at Brooke Army Medical Center in Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

Vincent Pedre, MD ’99 is in private practice in New York and specializes in integrative medicine.

Eric Carlson, DMD, MD ’00 is a fellow of the American College of Surgeons.

Richard Pitch, MD ’00 is a bio-safety specialist assisting in preventing the proliferation of biological weapons in Russia. He is co-editor of the Encyclopedia of Bioterrorism Defense.

Jennifer Marinari Heffernan, MD ’01 is an assistant professor at the University of North Texas Health Science Center in Fort Worth.

Gina D’Amato, MD ’98 spoke on “Concepts and Controversies in Oncology Drug Development” at the Bear Sterns 18th Annual Healthcare Conference in New York City.

Karl Dhana, MD ’98 is medical director of the Manly and Stanley M. Katz Seniors Campus, a living and health care community for seniors in West Palm Beach. He is on the faculty at the Miller School of Medicine and Nova Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Craig McFarland, MD ’92 is staff anesthesiologist at Brooke Army Medical Center in Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

Vincent Pedre, MD ’99 is in private practice in New York and specializes in integrative medicine.

Eric Carlson, DMD, MD ’00 is a fellow of the American College of Surgeons.

I’ll never forget the first words of our first lecture on the first day of medical school in the fall of ’53. Dr. Paff opened his gross anatomy lecture by saying, “Students, welcome to the world’s most honored profession—medicine.” And how right he was! Years later, I faced the difficult task of being Dr. Paff’s physician and treating him for cancer.

I graduated from the University of Miami School of Law in ’86. I was a clinical professor at the School of Medicine and an adjunct professor at the law school. I taught medical law to address the medical malpractice crisis. It’s frustrating that physicians must pay enormous premiums to protect their life’s work.

Where I Am Now: After visiting the farm in Greece where my mother was born, my wife and I fell in love with the place. We’re now refurbishing the farm. My great grandfather built it in 1842 from the stone of nearby mountains. The farm is a small village with four houses built by four brothers, and a church built in 1888 still used today. We have an amazing view of the Mediterranean Sea, only three miles away.

After arriving in Greece, the only urologist in the state we live in approached me, asking for help in seeing patients and assisting in the operating room. I volunteered and eventually it led to opening a private practice in Sparta, 40 miles north from home. Medical school alumni are welcome to come see me in Sparta and I’d be happy to show them the “real” Greece!

Send Us Your News

Submissions should be sent to Class Notes Editor, Post Office Box 016960 (R100), Miami, Florida 33101. News can also be submitted by email at alumni@med.miami.edu. Content may be edited for clarity and space.

Richard Pitch, MD ’00 is a bio-safety specialist assisting in preventing the proliferation of biological weapons in Russia. He is co-editor of the Encyclopedia of Bioterrorism Defense.

Jennifer Marinari Heffernan, MD ’01 is an assistant professor at the University of North Texas Health Science Center in Fort Worth.

Gina D’Amato, MD ’98 spoke on “Concepts and Controversies in Oncology Drug Development” at the Bear Sterns 18th Annual Healthcare Conference in New York City.

Karl Dhana, MD ’98 is medical director of the Manly and Stanley M. Katz Seniors Campus, a living and health care community for seniors in West Palm Beach. He is on the faculty at the Miller School of Medicine and Nova Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Craig McFarland, MD ’92 is staff anesthesiologist at Brooke Army Medical Center in Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

Vincent Pedre, MD ’99 is in private practice in New York and specializes in integrative medicine.

Eric Carlson, DMD, MD ’00 is a fellow of the American College of Surgeons.

Richard Pitch, MD ’00 is a bio-safety specialist assisting in preventing the proliferation of biological weapons in Russia. He is co-editor of the Encyclopedia of Bioterrorism Defense.

Jennifer Marinari Heffernan, MD ’01 is an assistant professor at the University of North Texas Health Science Center in Fort Worth.

Gina D’Amato, MD ’98 spoke on “Concepts and Controversies in Oncology Drug Development” at the Bear Sterns 18th Annual Healthcare Conference in New York City.

Karl Dhana, MD ’98 is medical director of the Manly and Stanley M. Katz Seniors Campus, a living and health care community for seniors in West Palm Beach. He is on the faculty at the Miller School of Medicine and Nova Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Craig McFarland, MD ’92 is staff anesthesiologist at Brooke Army Medical Center in Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

Vincent Pedre, MD ’99 is in private practice in New York and specializes in integrative medicine.

Eric Carlson, DMD, MD ’00 is a fellow of the American College of Surgeons.

Richard Pitch, MD ’00 is a bio-safety specialist assisting in preventing the proliferation of biological weapons in Russia. He is co-editor of the Encyclopedia of Bioterrorism Defense.

Jennifer Marinari Heffernan, MD ’01 is an assistant professor at the University of North Texas Health Science Center in Fort Worth.

Gina D’Amato, MD ’98 spoke on “Concepts and Controversies in Oncology Drug Development” at the Bear Sterns 18th Annual Healthcare Conference in New York City.

Karl Dhana, MD ’98 is medical director of the Manly and Stanley M. Katz Seniors Campus, a living and health care community for seniors in West Palm Beach. He is on the faculty at the Miller School of Medicine and Nova Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Craig McFarland, MD ’92 is staff anesthesiologist at Brooke Army Medical Center in Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

Vincent Pedre, MD ’99 is in private practice in New York and specializes in integrative medicine.

Eric Carlson, DMD, MD ’00 is a fellow of the American College of Surgeons.