Holiday Greetings from the desk of Maria Savoia, M.D.

Welcome to the 2006 holiday issue of Medical Alumni News. This issue marks the first issue of the Medical Alumni News sent simultaneously via email. Please contact Pam Murphy, Director for Medical Alumni Relations at pmurphy@ucsd.edu if you do not receive an electronic version.

I am very pleased to report that with the recent passage of California Proposition 1D, the School of Medicine will receive 35 million dollars for a capital project to support two exciting new initiatives: UCSD’s Program in Medical Education for Health Care Equity (PRIME – HEq) and Telemedicine. The PRIME – HEq Program calls for a 10% increase in class size and a new curricular track to train physicians to look for and correct inequities in health care access and outcomes wherever they exist. The Telemedicine initiative hopes to bring both specialty care and education to medically needy areas. We will use the $35 million from Proposition 1D to fund a new education building to house these programs but will need another $22 million to make this the state of the art education facility the School of Medicine desperately needs. Stay tuned for more information about this exciting yet challenging development.

On behalf of the Medical Alumni Association National Board of Directors, I thank you for your continued support. Giving Back, you make the difference.

White Coat Ceremony

The White Coat Ceremony on September 1, 2006, marked the beginning for 122 students entering the UCSD School of Medicine class of 2010. The 59 women and 70 men will wear the white coat they received at the ceremony as they study to become doctors. David Bailey, M.D., Interim Vice Chancellor for Health Sciences and Dean of the School of Medicine, helped the students put on the symbol that universally represents serving mankind, the White Coat.

The incoming students were selected from an applicant pool of 5,000 with an overall grade point average of 3.73. “The student body of the entering class received their degrees from 40 different colleges or universities, with the University of California being the most heavily represented,” said Carolyn Kelly, M.D., Associate Dean for Admissions and Student Affairs.

Just as with previous UCSD medical school classes, the academic background of the students is diverse. The majority of the students received their bachelor’s degrees in science, majoring in biology and biochemistry. Twenty-one students had double majors and five students had master’s degrees, three in Education and three in Biology. Many of the new students worked before entering medical school, with many having volunteered in medical clinics throughout the world including Mexico, Central America, India, Tanzania, and China. The Class of 2010 is the thirty-ninth class since the School of Medicine opened in the fall of 1968.

Gold Humanism Honor Society – UCSD Chapter

The recent White Coat Ceremony included the induction of 20 new members into the UCSD Chapter of the Gold Humanism Honor Society. The UCSD chapter was created to celebrate the values of humanism, compassion, integrity and professionalism in clinical care and dedication to service. The inductees are: Kevin Andruw, Matthew Bengard, Paul Celestre, Sonya Gabrielian, Tigran Garabekyan, Emily Gray, Max Hoshino, John Huang, Andrew Indresano, Archana Jayakumar, Gaea Moore, Jonathan Neyer, Erin Quattromani, Loren Sacks, Waheeda Samady, Geetika Sengupta, Rajni Sethi, Elizabeth Shaw, Stacy Tarango, and Gilmer Youn. The students’ reading of the Oath of Hippocrates concluded the ceremony. For more information on the Gold Humanism Honor Society, visit the School of Medicine – Web Portal, click on the Gold Humanism Honor Society link under the Student Awards heading at http://meded-portal.ucsd.edu/login.cfm

For more information on any of these stories, contact Medical Alumni Relations at (858) 822-1210 or medalumni@ucsd.edu. Visit your alumni website at http://meded.ucsd.edu/alumni.
Most Important News
Your suggestions are the most important news we can receive. Please take a minute and e-mail Pam Murphy, Director of Medical Alumni Relations at pmurphy@ucsd.edu and share your ideas for Alumni events, news and improvements.
Please take a minute to email with your email address. Emailing reduces administrative costs, providing a greater percentage of alumni funds for student and alumni programming.

Find Classmates–UCSD Alumni Directory
http://meded.ucsd.edu/alumni/directory.html

Medical Alumni Association Scholarships
Please visit http://med-portal.ucsd.edu/login.cfm under the heading Student Awards, click on the link for “Whipple/Harper Scholarship Award Winners.” Read the inspiring stories of students Rudy Murillo and Waheeda Samady, scholarship recipients in 2006.

UCSD Among Best Worldwide
Biotech and Technology Transfer: http://ucsdnews.ucsd.edu/newsrel/science/milkinbiotech06.asp
UCSD in top 10 of “best value” public colleges: http://ucsdnews.ucsd.edu/newsrel/general/kiplinger06.asp

Save The Date! Classes ’72, ’77, ’82, ’87, ’92, ’97, ’02: September 28 – 30, 2007 are the dates for the School of Medicine Reunion Weekend 2007 and we need your input to make this reunion a great experience. Contact Pam Murphy in the Medical Alumni Relations office with updated contact information for you and your classmates at pmurphy@ucsd.edu or 858-822-1210.

The recent 2006 Reunion was an overwhelming success with over 120 attending the September San Diego Bay activities. Class of ’81 alumnus Brian Druker, prominent scientific investigator, led the impressive list of CME program speakers. He spoke on Cancer Therapy in the 21st Century. Vivian Dierson, M.D., F.A.C.O.G. ’81 presented on Cardiovascular Disease in Women; and Kristina Hobson, M.D., ’96 presented on Multicultural Medicine: Increasing Clinical Effectiveness Through Cultural Awareness.

Alumni needed for Career Night, January 25, 2007
Local alumni are encouraged to participate in Career Night activities scheduled for Thursday evening, January 25, 2007. Career Night is an opportunity for alumni to share their medical career experiences with first and second year medical students. Alumni and students gather on campus for a casual dinner, short presentations, and roundtable discussions according to different medical fields. In 2006 over 50 medical students eagerly listened as 30 local alumni shared career insights and specific medical specialty areas. To attend Career Night 2007, please contact Pam Murphy in the Medical Alumni Relations office at pmurphy@ucsd.edu or 858-822-1210.

Alumni Discounts on Upcoming 2007 Continuing Medical Education Programs
Topics and Advances in Internal Medicine, February 22-28
Reg. Price $350 (one session)..............Alumni Price $200 ($225 after 2/2/07)
Reg. Price $750 (both sessions)............Alumni Price $350 ($375 after 2/2/07)

West Coast Geriatric Psychiatry Conference, March 7-10
Reg. Price $325 (one session)..............Alumni Price $275 ($305 after 2/7/07)

Nelson Butters’ West Coast Neuropsychology Conference Advances in the Neuropsychological Assessment and Treatment of School-Aged Children with Cognitive Deficits, March 22-25
Reg. Price $365 .................... Alumni Price $275 ($305 after 2/23/07)

Advances in Psychopharmacology Throughout the Life Span, April 12-14
Reg. Price $325........................Alumni Price $100 ($125 after 2/10/07)

Pain Management in Women Over the Lifecycle 2007, April 26-28
Reg. Price $300..........................Alumni Price $150 ($175 after 3/27/07)

Reg. Price $225...........................Alumni Price $100 ($125 after 4/11/07)

Visit http://cme.ucsd.edu or call (858) 822-1210 for more information.

Bud Whipple Ideal Lives On - Thanks to Alumni Gifts
Recent significant gifts from the Class of ‘81 helped to ensure a bright future for our medical students and the Bud Whipple Memorial Endowed Scholarship. Thank you for your generous gifts.