1. **The minutes** of the March 22, 2012 Faculty meeting were approved.

2. **Dean's report** - Dean Peter Amenta. Dr. Amenta reported the following announcements, awards and events:

   - The second annual RWJMS Scholarship Gala to Celebrate with Alumni and Friends was held on April 21, 2012. There were 330 attendees and the event raised more than $208,000 in support of scholarships. Next year’s gala will be held on April 20, 2013 at the Heldrich.

   - **Suhayl Dhib-Jalbut, MD**, Professor and Chair of Neurology, has been named President-Elect of the Americas Committees for Treatment and Research in Multiple Sclerosis (ACTRIMS). ACTRIMS is an incorporated non-profit organization whose mission is to promote knowledge and research collaborations in multiple sclerosis.
Charletta Ayers, MD, MPH, Associate Professor of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences, was honored by the Girls Scouts of Central and Southern New Jersey, Inc. as one of five Women of Distinction. Dr. Ayers was chosen because she exemplifies the Girl Scouts’ vision of excellence, leadership, and accomplishment.

Javier Escobar, MD, Associate Dean for Global Health and Professor of Psychiatry has been appointed to the Institute of Medicine’s Committee on Gulf War and Health: Treatment of Chronic Multisymptom Illness. The committee will evaluate the available scientific and medical literature regarding the best treatments for chronic multisymptom illness among Gulf War veterans and recommend additional research and legislative action that may be needed to improve the care and benefits provided to veterans.

Susan Goodin, PharmD, FCCP, BCOP, Professor of Medicine and Associate Director for Clinical Trials and Therapeutics at CINJ, has received the 2012 Award of Excellence from the Hematology/ Oncology Pharmacy Association (HOPA).

New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services has announced $8.1 million in grants to hospitals, health centers, community organizations and public health agencies that provide medical and support services to those living with HIV/AIDS in New Jersey. Within that funding is a CDC grant of $1.4 million to UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School to enhance rapid HIV testing.

Faculty elections have been completed to form the Search Committees for the Chair of Dermatology, Medicine, and Surgery and Dean’s appointments to these three committees will be completed shortly.

Upcoming Events

- Class of 2012 Convocation - May 21, 2012 - 7 PM at The State Theatre- New Brunswick, NJ
- Class of 2012 Commencement – May 23, 2012
- 38th Annual Dean’s Golf Outing – June 15, 2012 – 12:00PM (Mercer Oaks East, West Windsor)
- Class of 2016 White Coat Ceremony – August 10, 2012 – 2:00PM (Arlene and Henry Schwartzman Courtyard, New Brunswick)

Awards

The Professor Richard A. Harvey Excellence in Teaching Innovation Award was presented to Dr. Anthony Tobia, assistant professor of psychiatry. He serves as director of undergraduate education in the Department of Psychiatry. Dr. Tobin teaches in both the second-year behavioral science course and the third-year psychiatry clerkship. He is uniformly praised by his students. His
creative teaching methodologies consistently earn outstanding board scores in psychiatry.

Dr. Tobia has developed an innovative Novel Project in Student Education that features a reward system based on clerkship objectives. The project is now considered a best practice at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and it has been instituted by two other residency programs. It has also adopted by two other medical schools.

3. RWJMS Faculty Council Report - Nancy Walworth

The Council has met once, on March 13, since the last Dean's Faculty Meeting was held in February.

- On behalf of the Faculty, the Council sent comments to the March 15 meeting of the Joint Senate and Assembly Higher Education Committee regarding the Final Report of the UMDNJ Advisory Committee. The Council urged “the state of New Jersey to act on this recommendation in a timely manner, and with appropriate regard to the financial requirements and respect for faculty tenure and terms of employment necessary to make the merger a successful one”.

- The March 13th meeting of the Faculty Council welcomed Dr. Christopher Molloy, Rutgers University Interim Provost for Biomedical and Health Sciences. Dr. Molloy candidly discussed the proposed merger of RWJMS with Rutgers University and answered questions posed by those present. Regarding the merger of RWJMS with Rutgers, Dr. Molloy noted that the present focus is on operational matters and that he, Dr. Rodgers (Interim President of UMDNJ) and Dr. McCormick (President of Rutgers) meets monthly with the Governor’s office. He stated that the biggest issues of concern are financial and that Rutgers has engaged a financial analysis firm and committed $40 million to the process. He stated that Rutgers had hired a project manager and was looking for a firm to oversee the integration. He suggested that political clarity would be achieved by July 1 and that the merger would likely require legislation. In response to questions regarding a vision for the future structure of the University, he stated that time for visioning the future would come later, but mentioned several universities as potential models including Michigan, North Carolina and Pittsburgh.

- Also at the March 13th meeting several issues were brought to Dr. Molloy’s attention by RWJMS faculty who were present (Faculty Council members and members of the Faculty at large). A key issue is that uncertainty about the future of RWJMS has impacted recruitment. Issues of concern with regard to the merger included the level of state support for higher education, the need for administrative support for matters unique to medical schools, the need to coordinate the ongoing RWJMS strategic plan with Rutgers and the status of the UMDNJ Foundation. Other issues raised included the delivery of the educational program, whether there would be opportunities to teach across school boundaries, the future of departments, the relationship of the medical school to the university, and how differences between policies and tenure practices would be addressed.

- Aside from discussions regarding the future alignment of RWJMS, the Council has focused on the challenges faced by faculty in attempting to balance their efforts to the various mission areas of the medical school in an era of diminished resources. Dean Amenta accepted an
invitation to meet with the Council on May 22 to hear faculty concerns in regard to these challenges.

- The Council continues to encourage communication between the administration and the faculty and to identify steps that will promote a culture of shared governance. On May 2 the Council sent a letter to the Dean recommending steps that could be taken to improve communication between the leadership and physicians of the Robert Wood Johnson Medical Group.

The next meeting of the Faculty Council is scheduled for May 22 at 5 p.m. in the CAB1302, with V-tel to the Dean’s Conference Room in Piscataway. Meeting minutes, links to items of interest and Council reports to the Faculty can be found on the Faculty Council website at: http://rwjms.umdnj.edu/faculty/council/related.html.

Other Business

4. Dr. Amenta asked for new business, and adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Spotnitz
Secretary of the Faculty