

## Upstate Receives \$280 Million in State Support

Upstate Medical University got a boost to its vision of regional growth through research, clinical care and education, thanks to more than \$280 million earmarked in the 2008-2009 state budget for key SUNY Upstate initiatives.

“This may be the biggest investment in upstate New York since the Erie Canal,” says David R. Smith, MD, Upstate president. “The beneficiary of this investment is not SUNY Upstate, but the communities across the state that we stand ready to serve.”

The funded initiatives embrace Upstate’s responsive regional growth agenda and provide the foundation to grow and develop programs that address key issues across the region, such as the shortage of physicians and other health professionals and access to services, while enhancing the regional economy and creating new job growth through research. A key project approved by lawmakers is the \$72 million expansion of the university’s Institute for Human Performance, which is currently at capacity.

The ability to offer state-of-the art research space is paramount to attracting top-tier researchers to the university. Additional lab space is also needed to attract top-level biomedical graduate students. The need for the state to step up its support for research was a key element in the findings by the state Commission on Higher Education that were released last fall.

In addition to the IHP expansion, funded projects include:

- \$150 million in bonding authorization to support the modernization of University Hospital patient rooms, build a cancer center, and a heart center.
- \$36 million for a new academic building. In the past three years, SUNY Upstate has launched six new education programs and is planning for three more degree programs to start by 2009. The building is essential for meeting the university’s current and future educational goals.

- \$12.45 million for phase one of renovations for the Binghamton Castle. This historic building is the future home of SUNY Upstate’s Binghamton campus, including the training of 80 third- and fourth-year medical students and the *continued on page 2*

## Commencement 2008 Honors Satcher and Setnor

Former U.S. Surgeon General David Satcher, MD, PhD, and longtime SUNY Upstate Medical University benefactor Jules R. Setnor, MD ’35, addressed graduates and received honorary degrees during the 2008 SUNY Upstate Medical University Commencement on Sunday, May 18.

Satcher, currently director of the Center of Excellence on Health Disparities in the National Center for Primary Care at the Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta, was the nation’s 16th surgeon general, serving from 1998 to 2002 under both Presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush.

Setnor, a retired internist from Springfield, Massachusetts, is best known for his \$3-million gift to build the Rose, Jules R. and Stanford S. Setnor Academic Building.

Upstate Medical University conferred 141 new medical degrees during the ceremony. Satcher and Setnor each received an honorary Doctor of Science.

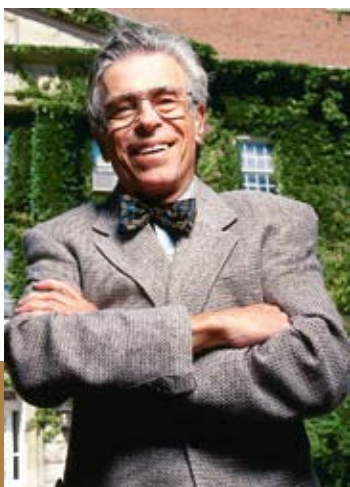


David Satcher, MD, PhD



Jules R. Setnor, MD '35





Maxwell M. Mozell, PhD



Gregory L. Eastwood, MD

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site of the university's forthcoming physician assistant degree program.

- \$10 million for the cord blood center. SUNY Upstate will be a key player, along with the state Health Department and other organizations, in leading work on a research center investigating the potential for life-saving treatments through umbilical cord blood.

### Mozell Retires

**M**axwell M. Mozell, PhD, SUNY Distinguished Service Professor, dean of the College of Graduate Studies and professor of neuroscience and physiology, retired at the end of the 2007-08 academic year after more than 40 years at Upstate.

On April 10, Upstate hosted the "Maxwell Mozell Celebration," in honor of his contributions as a mentor, administrator, and scientist, featuring two lectures and a reception.

"His contributions as a researcher, scholar and administrator and his concern for our public mission, has made him a role model for the SUNY Upstate community as well as the global community," says Upstate President David Smith, MD. "There has been no better ambassador for Upstate Medical University."

Mozell's research has been in the field of olfaction—the sense of smell—and has held a National Institute of Health grant for 40 years. He served as the chair of the International Commission on Olfaction and Taste from 1984 to 1991 and has won numerous accolades for his work, including the Manheimer Award in Recognition of Career Achievements in the Chemosensory Sciences, the Sense of Smell Award from the Fragrance Research Fund, the Javits Neuroscience Investigator Award from the National Institute of Health and the SUNY Chancellor's Recognition Award for Exemplary Contributions to Research.

Mozell is founder of the Association for Chemoreception Sciences (AChemS) and served as executive editor of the journal *Chemical Sciences* from 1992 to 1998.

### Eastwood Named University Professor

**G**regory L. Eastwood, MD, who served as president of SUNY Upstate Medical University from 1993 to 2006, was appointed University Professor by the SUNY Board of Trustees. He will return to the Upstate faculty and resume his teaching and scholarship in the Center for Bioethics and Humanities in September.

"By bestowing upon him the rank of University Professor, the Board of Trustees has recognized Dr. Eastwood as a valued member of the SUNY community," said Chairman Carl T. Hayden. "It is my honor to be a part of this important appointment and my pleasure to welcome Dr. Eastwood back to the SUNY family."

"I am humbled by this honor from SUNY," says Eastwood, who served as interim president of Case Western Reserve University from June 2006 through July 2007. "My association with the State University of New York, which began more than 15 years ago, provided me with one of the greatest and most rewarding opportunities in academia: the ability to serve as a university president. I accept this honor with deep gratitude to all those who along the way have provided me with support, wise counsel and encouragement."

### Goodman to Lead Research and Graduate Studies

**S**teven R. Goodman, PhD, a leading researcher in sickle cell disease, was appointed vice president for research and dean of the College of Graduate Studies at Upstate Medical University. He will join the university on September 1.

Dr. Goodman currently serves as the C.L. and Amelia A. Lundell Professor of Life Sciences and Professor of Molecular and Cell Biology at the University of Texas at Dallas, and is respected worldwide for his three decades of research on the structure and function of cell structures called membrane skeletons. His related research on sickle cell disease led to breakthrough discoveries into the molecular definitions of irreversibly sickled cells and is paving the way for new, more effective drug treatment of the disease. Goodman identified a

drug, which, in Phase II trials, has been shown to block the formation of dense irreversibly sickled cells and lower what is called the crisis rate for sickle cell sufferers.

“We are very excited to have recruited a scientist of Dr. Goodman’s stature to the leadership team at Upstate,” says Steven Scheinman, MD, dean of the College of Medicine. “By combining the roles of vice president for research and dean of the College of Graduate Studies, this will represent the most significant position of leadership for research that our campus has had.”

Goodman will have appointments as professor of biochemistry and molecular biology, and professor of pediatrics. As vice president for research, Goodman will be responsible for strategic planning for research for the institution, oversight of the campus research infrastructure, and research growth and development. As dean of the College of Graduate Studies, he will be the chief academic officer of that college, responsible for the degree programs in the College of Graduate Studies involving both graduate students and postdoctoral trainees.

### New Stem Cell Processing Lab Funded

A new centralized human Stem Cell Processing Laboratory at Upstate will include an imaging system that shows in actual time how stem cells develop into the human immune system. The laboratory, funded jointly by New York State and Upstate, will be located in Weiskotten Hall and will be a core facility for researchers at Upstate and across the nation involved in stem cell research.

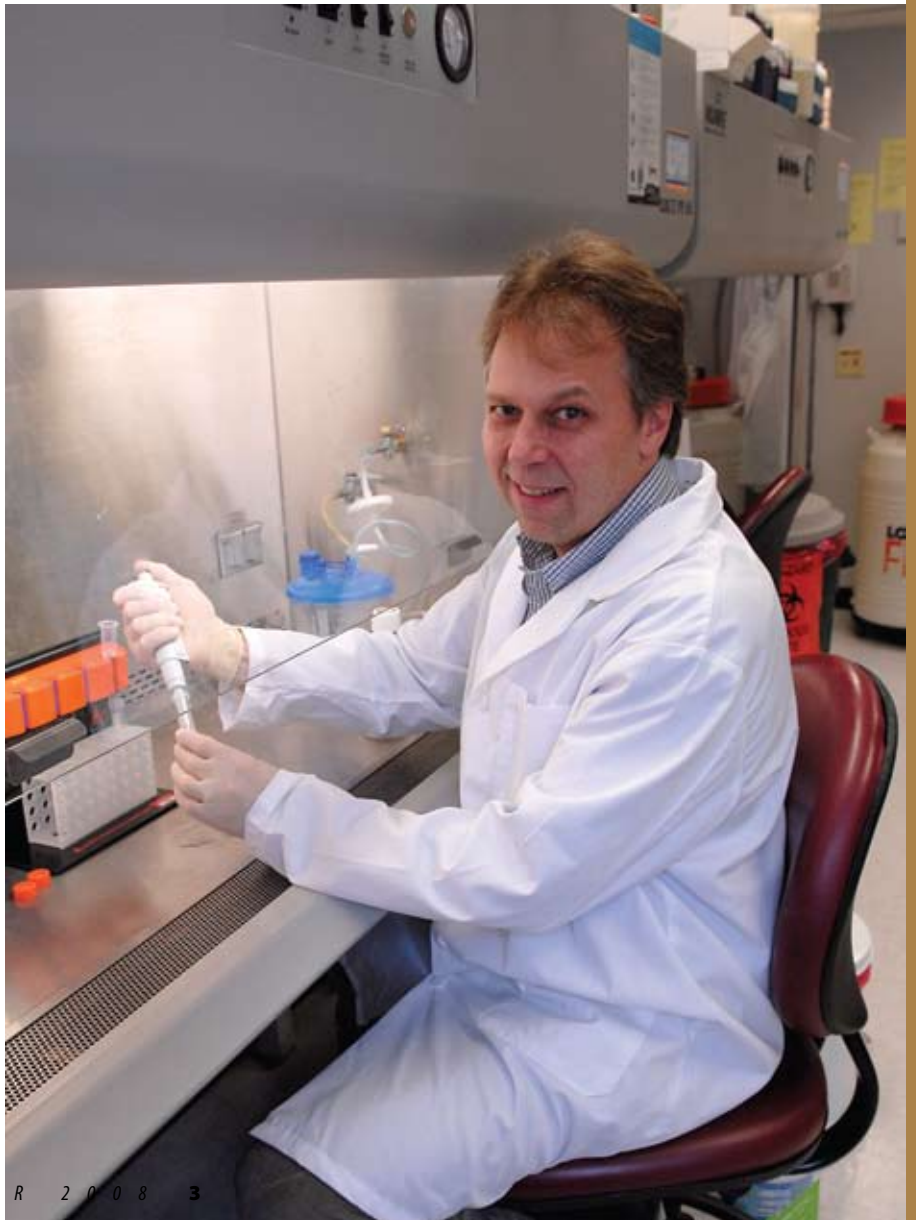
“This new imaging system will take SUNY Upstate to a new level of stem cell research,” says Gerold Feuer, PhD, associate professor of microbiology and immunology and director of the university’s Center for Humanized SCID Mouse Models.

“SUNY Upstate is one of only a few institutions nationwide to have the expertise and capacity to conduct a specialized type of stem cell research that uses genetically engineered mice that lack immune systems. This imaging system will further our studies of the immune system and at the same time allow us to gain a better understanding of how stem cells work,” says Dr. Feuer.

The laboratory is projected to be completed this year and will operate in conjunction with Upstate’s Center for Humanized SCID Mouse Models, both to be overseen by Feuer and the university’s Department of Microbiology and Immunology. Upstate will contribute \$250,000 to furnish the laboratory with basic instrumentation and to hire a biomedical researcher to oversee stem cell purification processes.

A centerpiece of the Stem Cell Processing Laboratory will be an IVIS® 200 Imaging System from Xenogen Corporation, to be purchased with *continued on page 4*

Gerold Feuer, PhD





Medical students (above, left to right) Esther Ihezue, Josephine Dunn Junius and Yung Lyou and (below) Chanel Thompson participate in Cover the Uninsured Week.



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nearly \$200,000 received through a one-year Institutional Development Grant from New York State. The grant was requested by SUNY Upstate's Department of Microbiology and Immunology and issued to the department as an Empire State Stem Cell Board grant through the state Department of Health.

### Advocating for the Uninsured

Several Upstate Medical University student groups joined forces in early April to sponsor "Cover the Uninsured Week," an effort to raise awareness and to provide opportunities for students to become directly involved in solutions through discussion, outreach, and advocacy.

Students representing the AAMC Organization of Student Representatives, American Medical Association, the Upstate Internal Medicine Club,

and Physicians for National Health Program-Upstate chapter worked with the Onondaga County Health department on events including health fairs, lectures, and an elementary school science fair targeting populations who are at higher risk of late detection of chronic diseases.

### Upstate Admissions Officer Offers Tips on Med School Admission



Jennifer Welch

During 15 years reviewing admissions applications for potential medical students, Upstate Director of Admissions Jennifer Welch has seen "a lot of students do some really great things and others do some not so great things."

Welch culled her years of experience to provide an insider's view on the process in *101 Tips on Getting into Medical School* (Gegensatz Press), available for \$19.95 at Barnes and Noble book stores and through [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com).

Her number one piece of advice: first impressions *do* matter. "Admissions officers have an excellent sense within the first five minutes if the student is going to be a good fit for the college," she says.

