



Photograph by Richard Whelsky

Congressman Dan Maffei visits SUNY Upstate campus

U.S. Rep. Dan Maffei, left, visited the SUNY Upstate Medical University campus Dec. 18 to meet with David R. Smith, MD, president of SUNY Upstate Medical University, and other leaders of the university community. While on campus, Maffei toured the laboratory of Michael Zuber, PhD, (at blackboard) assistant professor of ophthalmology and adjunct assistant professor of biochemistry and molecular biology at SUNY Upstate. Dr. Zuber and his team are studying induced retinal cells, which hold promise in treating retinal diseases such as retinitis pigmentosa and macular degeneration. Dr. Zuber's team, in collaboration with Drs. Andrea Viczian and Eduardo Solessio, recently received national atten-

tion when they reprogrammed pluripotent cells to functioning eyes. It is hoped that these findings will also aid in the discovery of new potentially disease causing genes and help generate a preliminary map of the genetic network driving eye formation.



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