To paraphrase MacArthur, old facility managers never die, they just fade away. In this case, BioMET’s old facilities manager, Mike McCrea, did more than fade—he left his trademark ‘uniform’ as a memento. When Assistant Director Brian Hockenberry came in on January 2, he found the light on in the office Mike was using. Fairly sure the light had been turned off over the New Year’s holiday, Brian opened up the office to find the neatly laid out uniform as seen to the left. As the rest of the administrative staff came in, they too came to look at these ghostly remains.

Mike’s practical jokes were well-known and well-taken, but it was a surprise that he managed to pull one off in absentia!

Mike McCrea’s Uniform Sans
Mike McCrea: Mike’s trademark white coat, white shirt, tie, black pants and black shoes—always with his IDs dangling from the pocket.

The School of Medicine’s Annual State of the School Report—“Forging Ahead”—was published, based on Dean Reece’s address given in September. A video of the address can be found at http://medschool.umaryland.edu/public_affairs/sots.asp. The School has held its own in these troubling times, maintaining a strong portfolio of grants and contracts. In addition, it has significantly increased its private support. The report also highlights many of the faculty and programs that have made the University of Maryland School of Medicine one of the top ranked public schools in the nation.

BioMET faculty and staff are encouraged to look at the video or the written report.
BioMET welcomes Christopher Hardwick as the new assistant dean of Public Affairs and Communications for the School of Medicine. We look forward to working with Mr. Harwick.

Congratulations to Jeff Rappaport, one of Silvia Muro’s Bioengineering students, who was awarded an Undergraduate Research Fellowship from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. Dr. Muro’s laboratory studies targeted drug delivery systems and Mr. Rappaport will continue to do research in this area. Dr. Muro’s laboratory has won numerous accolades and continues to be a leader in the field of nanomedicine.

Lederer Laboratory Hosts Dr. Voigt

Dr. Niels Voigt from the University of Essen in Germany spent three weeks visiting the Lederer laboratory, joining them in a side trip to the Annual Biophysical Society meeting in Philadelphia. Dr. Voigt came to learn about some of the special techniques that the Lederer laboratory has developed to image heart cells, including the now famous cellular stretch technique. The technique actually stretches individual heart cells, mimicking the stretch they undergo naturally. He and his colleagues in Essen are part of a collaborative research project funded by the Leducq Fondation that includes BioMET Director W. Jonathan Lederer. While he was here, the Lederer laboratory celebrated his birthday with a cake. He was much appreciative and invited the entire laboratory for drinks at a local wine bistro. All in all, a festive occasion that helped ease his missing a birthday celebration with his family. Dr. Voigt expects to try to bring the new techniques he saw in the Lederer laboratory to his laboratory in Essen.

Congratulations

Dr. W. Jonathan Lederer gave The Dirk L. Brutsaert Lecture entitled “Elementary Ca2+ events: From discovery to their implication for the physiology and pathology of the heart,” at the European Society for Cardiology Meeting in Les Diablerets, Switzerland on January 24, 2013.
Moving Update

Dr. Mervyn Monteiro completed his move to the sixth floor of Pharmacy South in early January. Considering that he was the first, there were only minor glitches, probably because Dr. Monteiro had carefully organized his laboratory for the move. He shared his experience with his fellow faculty members in the February faculty meeting.

Construction is underway on the fifth floor of Pharmacy South. Drs. Lederer, Kao and Karbowski will move in to this area once it is completed. Changes over the course of a month were very apparent. The pictures were taken on January 18 and February 22, respectively.

The East hallway (both pictures to the right) went from having built-in lockers on the left to having the wall filled in with studs. The cold room seen on the right hand side of the hallway in the first picture was removed, a doorway put in and the walls studded out. The cold room is being converted to an imaging room for Dr. Mariusz Karbowski.

Below, a laboratory is converted from a standard laboratory into two imaging rooms. As one can see, just clearing out the old material takes considerable effort.

As Pharmacy South was undergoing construction, the General Research Building (GRB) that will house BioMET’s remaining faculty and all its administration was going through the design phase. The final construction drawings were finished in February. The project will then go out to bid. Construction will begin as soon as a contractor has been chosen. In the meantime, as seen to the right, the GRB has been completely gutted, awaiting construction.
**BioMET Happenings**

**Comings and Goings**

Transferred: Long-time dishwasher, Ollie Collins, to the IHV.

Dr. Nuria Gonzalez Montalban has left Dr. Baskokov’s laboratory.

**Publications**


**Grants and Contracts**

**Awards**

Dr. W. Jonathan Lederer, 1/1/2013, NIH-NHLBI, “Calcium Entrained Arrhythmias,” $883,241, yr 3 of 5. Note: Due to cuts in NIH budgets, administrative cuts were made to funding. These cuts may be restored.

**Submissions**

Dr. Aristide Chikando, 1/30/2013, AHA, “Mitochondrial Calcium Signaling in Living Heart Cells,” Total Request: $308,000.

Dr. B. Maura Greiser, 1/30/2013, AHA, “X-ROS Signaling in Atrial Myocytes,” Total Request: $308,000.

Dr. Bruce E. Vogel, 1/30/2013, NSF, “The Role of the Extracellular Matrix in Cytokinesis,” Total Request: $1,027,499.

Dr. Mervyn J. Monteiro, 1/30/2013, NSF, “Impact of misfolded protein accumulation on organism survival and development,” Total Request: $752,008.

Dr. Mervyn J. Monteiro, 2/1/2013, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Foundation, “Deciphering the mechanism by which mutations in ubiquilin-2 cause ALS,” Total Request: $83,137.

**Patents**


**Talks and Travels**

Dr. W. Jonathan Lederer, The Dirk L. Brutsaert Lecture “Elementary Ca2+ events: From discovery to their implication for the physiology and pathology of the heart,” The European Society for Cardiology Meeting, Les Diablerets, Switzerland, January 24, 2013.


Dr. Ilia Baskakov, Seminar Speaker, “Genesis of Mammalian Prions: from protein to disease”, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, University of Maryland School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD, February 4, 2013.


Dr. Mariusz Karbowski, NIH, MBPP study section meeting in Washington, DC, February 14-15, 2013.

Dr. Ilia Baskakov, NIH Study Section ZRG1 IDM-S, February 15, 2013.


Dr. Ilia Baskakov, NIH Study Section CMND., , San Francisco, CA, February 21-22, 2013.

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**MPower Update**

Editor’s Note: While BioMET may not participate in all activities relating to the new initiative, the success of the entire enterprise benefits everyone. Thus, all activities of the new initiative will be highlighted in BioMET Now. As before, all members of the BioMET community are encouraged to look at the MPower web site at mpowermaryland.com for current information.

On January 22, UMB President, Dr. Jay Perman discussed the progress of the MPowering the State initiative. A summary of his remarks can be found at http://www.umd.edu/offices/communications/news/?ViewStatus=FullArticle&articleID=19820. There are two new centers that have been established that involve faculty from both campuses, but not joint appointments.

For BioMET, the ability to have joint appointments is of fundamental importance. However, in just this one area there are multiple issues with which to contend. Firstly, there are human resources issues like who administers the salary and benefits. Then there are academic issues like promotion and tenure. Additional questions include: Who administers the grants? How are indirect costs allocated? What about office and laboratory space? What about teaching duties?

The new initiative did not have additional resources given to it, so either old resources must be re-assigned or new sources developed, as for the new centers mentioned above. Both of these take time and effort, and it was not as if either university was inactive! Both the University of Maryland Baltimore and the University of Maryland College Park are vibrant academic communities in their own right. While the initiative holds great synergistic promise, this promise will not be realized if damage is done to either partner in the process of re-aligning activities. BioMET is eager to support the process and has made it clear to the steering committee that our staff and faculty are willing to do whatever is needed to help.