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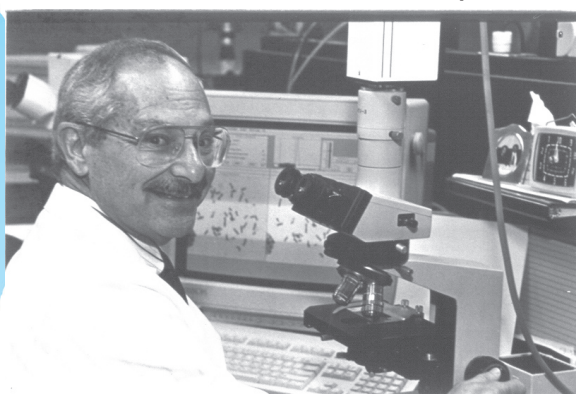
*Dr. Maimon Cohen,
circa 1986*

Under Dr. Cohen's energetic and untiring leadership, the MBC grew from an idea into a highly functional and productive UMBI Center.

In Memoriam: Maimon Cohen

by Timothy Hughes

Former MBC Acting Director Dr. Maimon Cohen passed away on January 25, 2007. Dr. Cohen was Co-Acting Director of MBC (1987 - 1989) then Acting Director (1989 - 1990). Dr. Cohen continued as an MBC Faculty member until 1997 when he left the



University to become the first Director of the Harvey Institute for Human Genetics at the Greater Baltimore Medical Center. He served as director of the Harvey Institute until his passing.

Dr. Cohen's career in the field of human genetics spanned more than 40 years. He started his tenure at USM in June 1982 at the University

of Maryland Baltimore as Professor in the Departments of OB/GYN and Pediatrics in the School of Medicine and as the founding Director of the Division of Human Genetics.

Prior to joining the University of Maryland, Dr. Cohen also established the program at the Department of Human Genetics at Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical School in Jerusalem, Israel and was director of cytogenetics at both Buffalo Children's Hospital and Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago. He was a past president of the American Society of Human Genetics and a past vice president for Clinical Laboratory Affairs of the American College of Medical Genetics. Dr. Cohen was board certified by The American Board of Medical Genetics in both Medical Genetics and Clinical Cytogenetics and was a Founding Fellow, American College of Medical Genetics.

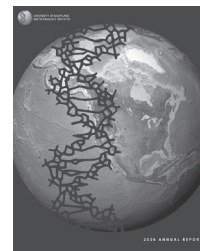
From the very earliest days of MBC Dr. Cohen was instrumental in developing MBC programs and scientific foci and was directly responsible for the recruitment of an extraordinary cadre of scientists to its faculty.

Under Dr. Cohen's energetic and untiring leadership, the MBC grew from an idea into a highly functional and productive UMBI Center. In 1989, under his direction, the Program for Requirements for the Medical Biotechnology Center Facility was written. This document justified the purchase and construction of the facility that houses MBC today.

Personally he was an energetic and giving man who, through his early and dedicated service, will forever be recognized as an essential part of MBC and UMBI history.

Annual Report Released

UMBI's Annual Report was released on schedule this January. The report, which summarizes UMBI's activities in the previous fiscal year, is one of the main public relation publications used to promote UMBI within the state of Maryland and elsewhere. It is also a excellent way to see what the other centers have done over the past year.



UMBI VP Passes

UMBI's Vice President for Education and Outreach, Gary Coleman, passed away after battling cancer. Under his direction, UMBI developed multiple innovative programs that are today recognized throughout the state, including SciTech, MDBio Mobile Lab, and the Loaner Lab for Schools. He will be missed, but the programs he developed are a legacy that will never be forgotten.

Stem Cell Grant Process Chaotic

In 2006, the Maryland Legislature and then Governor Ehrlich created a new program for stem cell research support in the state of Maryland. Since stem cell research is highly restricted under the federal government, the states have begun their own initiatives to further stem cell research, which has been promoted as possible cures for a host of devastating diseases. The granting process and administration was given to TEDCO, the Maryland Technology Development Corporation, a quasi-governmental agency. It established the Maryland Stem Cell Commission as an independent unit within the agency. TEDCO, which does have other grant programs, set up an online grant submission site similar to what it already did.

The first notifications for grants went out for November 1, 2006, with a letter of intent due December 3 and a grant submission date of January 3, 2007. Problems began early on when it was not clear whether the letter of intent was mandatory and the fact that the entire University System of Maryland closes down the last week in December meaning that grants would have to be ready for administrative sign-offs before Christmas! TEDCO quickly extended the submission date to January 8, 2007, to alleviate that problem.

MBC researchers who were putting in stem cell grants raced to get letters submitted and then write the grant. However, TEDCO's application process was not as smooth as to what we are accustomed. The FAQ's on the web site created additional questions of their own! For instance, the FAQ's were still being modified on the final day of submission, January 8.

Five MBC researchers did manage to submit grants, with a great deal of support from UMBI's Office of Research and Development. ORD's Stan Jackson was

forced to printout each page of every grant individually, since the site never solved the problem of producing pdf versions of the submitted grant. Given the trouble that the site had in handling grants, one can only hope that as the grants go through the review process that everything got included. According to a TEDCO press release, the Maryland Stem Cell Commission received 85 applications. Notification of award is expected the end of March, but only if the review process goes smoothly. For that, we can only wait and watch.

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An Awarding Experience

UMBI's Annual Faculty-Staff Convocation which is usually held in the fall was finally held as a luncheon meeting on January 16, 2007. The convocation is meant to honor faculty and staff for service and to bestow special awards for extraordinary or exemplary performance at all levels. This is the second convocation presided over by President Jennie Hunter-Cevera.

The following MBC staffers were recognized for five years of service; Neera Agrawal, Chun Dong, Cecilia Frederick, David Freilich, Dr. W. Jonathan Lederer, Dr. Bruce Vogel, Dr. Zachary White, and Pamela Wright. Longer serving MBC staffers did not hit the milestone in time for this convocation. In addition to longevity, those faculty members who had patents issued last year were also recognized. Dr. Mervyn Monteiro and Dr. Govind Rao both received patents in Fiscal Year 06. Dr. Rao, now at UMBC, had his patent filed while he was here, so it becomes part of UMBI's intellectual property. Each was given an engraved plaque commemorating the patent award.

Three Distinguished Service Awards, to a faculty member, staff member, and student, and the President's Shining Star Award were also presented. CARB's Assistant Director Greg Silsby received the Shining Star Award. Two of the Distinguished Service Awards went to MBC faculty member Dr. Ilia Baskakov and MBC Student Petek Ballar, nominated by her mentor Dr. Shengyun Fang. The third went to CBR staff member Joy Horton.

In addition to all the awards, Dr. Hunter-Cevera gives a "state of the institution" address. As in the past, she was insightful, informative, and enthusiastic.

Distinguished Service Awards:

Left: Dr. Hunter-Cevera and Dr. Lederer present the faculty award to Dr. Ilia Baskakov.

Below: Dr. Hunter-Cevera and Dr. Shengyun Fang present the student award to Petek Ballar.



Dr. Jennie Hunter-Cevera presenting the service awards to (from the top): Cecilia Frederick, Neera Agrawal, Pamela Wright, Zachary White and Dr. Lederer.

MBC Happenings

Comings and Goings

Dr. N. Leticia Gomez, Research Associate in Dr. W. Jonathan Lederer's laboratory, has taken a faculty position in her native Mexico.

Grants and Contracts

Les Baillie, UMB Subcontract, "Rational Design of an Anthrax Toxin Neutralizing Vaccine," 2/1/07, \$381,983 yr 4 of 5

Publications

Zhang J, Jiang YX, Jia ZL, Li Q, Gong WD, Wang LW, Wei DY, Yao J, **Fang SY**, Xie K. Association of elevated GRP78 expression with increased lymph node metastasis and poor prognosis in patients with gastric cancer. *CLINICAL & EXPERIMENTAL METASTASIS* 23 (7-8): 401-410 DEC 2006.

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IHV Update

The process of moving IHV to UMB took another step on January 16 when the first of many Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) was signed. These Memoranda lay out the details of what is a very complicated and unprecedented move. The duties, responsibilities, assets, and rights for faculty and staff, as well as institutions, all must be considered and agreed upon before the July 1 deadline. While the MBC has some role to play, most of the work must be accomplished by others and there will be little indication to MBC that anything has changed even after the deadline passes, as we will continue to share the building with the IHV for some time to come.

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Talks and Travels

Dr. Mervyn Monteiro, workshop speaker, Workshop on Protein Homeostasis in Aging Degradation and Repair, organized by NIH the Biology of Aging Program and The Neurobiology and Neuropsychology Program, "Taking out the Garbage: The role of Novel Ubiquitin-Containing Proteins in the Disposal of Misfolded Proteins in Cells." January 8, 2007, Bethesda, MD.

Dr. Bruce Vogel, Invited Speaker, Department of Embryology, Carnegie Institution, "Extracellular Matrix and Epithelial Morphogenesis in Worms and Mice," January 15, 2007.

Dr. Chris D. Geddes, Session Speaker, SPIE (International Society for Optical Engineering) Photonics West 2007, "Microwave Accelerated Plasmonics: Application to Ultra fast and Ultra Sensitive Clinical Assays," January 23, 2007, San Jose, California.

Dr. Valeriy Lukyanenko, Invited Speaker, Department of Basic Medical Science, University of Missouri - Kansas City, "Novel approaches in cardiac physiology and pharmacology", February 21, 2007, Kansas City, MO.