



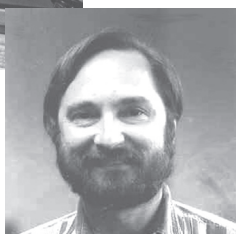
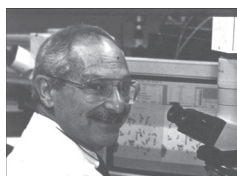
INSIDE RETROSPECTIVE

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 1
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MEDICAL BIOTECHNOLOGY CENTER - UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND BIOTECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE

INSIDE:

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MBC PEOPLE 1986-1998

The Medical Biotechnology Center was the third center established in the nascent institution called the Maryland Biotechnology Institute, later renamed the University of Maryland Biotechnology Institute as we know it now. It was preceded by CARB (Center for Advanced Research in Biotechnology) and COMB (Center for Marine Biotechnology) both of which were established in 1985. It actually started out as the Center for Medical Biotechnology and was called that in the early founding documents. The obvious confusion of having duplicate initials with COMB quickly led to being redesignated the Medical Biotechnology Center.

It got off to a somewhat slow start, with little being done in the beginning. In an effort to bring some direction to the process, the MBC Scientific Advisory Committee was established in February of 1987. With co-chairs Dr. Maimon Cohen (left, top), UMB Professor of Obstetrics/Gynecology and Pediatrics and Dr. James Kaper (left, bottom), UMB Professor of Medicine and the Center for Vaccine Development, the committee was very diverse. Other members of the committee were Dr. Paul Hoffman, Professor of Neurology, UMB and the Veterans Administration Hospital; Dr. Robert Knodell, Professor of Medicine, UMB and head of the Division of Gastroenterology; Dr. W. Jonathan Lederer, Professor of Physiology, UMB; Dr. George Lewis, Professor of Microbiology and Immunology UMB, Dr. Gregory Payne, Assistant Professor Chemical

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From the Editor

When *Inside MBC* was first published in the summer of 2001, it was designated Volume 4, Number 3. The intent was to "fill in" the back issues retrospectively starting from around 1998, when Dr. Tramont resigned as the first permanent director and Dr. W. Jonathan Lederer was appointed interim director and eventually permanent director. We are finally beginning that effort, spurred by the twentieth anniversary of UMBI (1985-2005) and MBC's own twentieth anniversary (1986-2006). In keeping with the original plan, the volume and number for *Inside MBC Retrospective* starts with one. The actual published date can be found on the inside with the rest of the information about the newsletter. Since these retrospectives will come out periodically, feel free to suggest topics or correct errors. I hope you enjoy reading about the early days of MBC.

Pamela Wright, Editor
June, 2006

MBC FACILITY



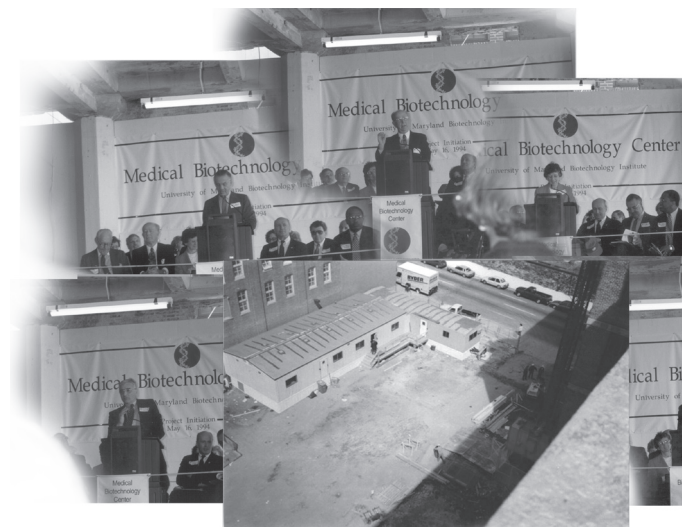
Through negotiations and personal appeals, offices and laboratory space were acquired for use in the early years of the MBC, but the intent had always been to find a permanent home. As early as 1987, an empty warehouse from the now defunct Hutzler's Department Store was identified as an ideal candidate for such a home. Its location on Lombard Street, just down the block from UMB, was perfect for the ongoing collaborations of MBC faculty members. The first step to acquire the building was made in



Construction starting point, c. 1992

June of 1989, which required the cooperation of the University System, UMB, the State of Maryland and the City of Baltimore, who owned the building. By the time the requisite documentation was generated and everyone signed off on the proposal, the building did not actually become UMBI property until February of 1991. It cost \$2.6 million dollars, but it was still a warehouse. The subsequent renovations took much time and multiple proposals.

The renovation plan started with a proposal to the State of Maryland called the MBC Facility Program document. It outlined what the specific requirements were, what the resulting facility would look like and what it would cost. By the time all the t's were crossed and i's dotted, the ground-breaking took place in May of 1994, more than three years after the building was purchased. Dr. Tramont, Tim Hughes and Mike McCrea were the prime movers in both the design of the renovations and overseeing the process. Tim was the only one who was here through planning, design and completion. The building was slated to open October 1995, but was not ready. The actual construction contract end date, February 1996, also came and went, but people were already moving in. So despite the construction, Dr. David Margolis performed the first experiment in the new building in April of 1996, not quite ten years after the MBC was founded.



Ground-breaking, May 1994: Clockwise from bottom left: MBC Dr. David Margolis; Senator Paul Sarbanes; Governor William Donald Schlessinger; President Rita Colwell; and Baltimore Mayor Kurt Schmoke. Center is the front area where the parking lot is now.

Under construction, c 1994.

The finished building, c 1996



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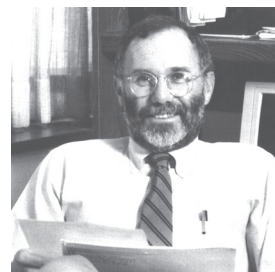
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Engineering, UMBC; Dr. Suzanne Rosenberg, Associate Professor of Biological Sciences, UMBC, and Dr. Daniel Stein, Assistant Professor of Microbiology, UMCP. This committee was directed to focus the MBC into specific research foci.

In April 1987, Dr. Rita Colwell (left), Vice-Chancellor of Academic Affairs for the University System of Maryland, named Dr. Myron M. Levine (right, below) Acting Director of the MBC and Dr. Maimon Cohen, Acting Co-Director. Dr. Kaper then became the sole chair of the Advisory Committee. By August of that year, the committee had determined the scientific foci for the MBC: Bioimaging/ Biosensing/ Bioprocessing, Molecular Neurobiology, Molecular Genetics, and Vaccine Development/AIDS Research/Molecular Immunology. August also saw the first staff member hired, as Tim Hughes became the Assistant Director, a post he still holds.



1987 also saw the arrival of the first faculty member hired, Dr. John Collins. Dr. Collins was jointly recruited with the Department of Biological Chemistry, UMB.

With no physical home of its own, MBC faculty and staff occupied various locations on the UMB campus, with borrowed offices and negotiated laboratory facilities. But with creative funding arrangements and innovative networking, the MBC grew. Most of the growth in faculty came by the use of secondary appointments. As Tim Hughes outlined in his Perspective Series in *Inside MBC* (Vol. 5, No. 3):

In February 1988 Dr. Joseph Lakowicz was given a secondary faculty appointment in the MBC, complementary to a secondary appointment provided to Dr. John Collins (MBC's first primary faculty hire) by the UMB School of Medicine's Department of Biological Chemistry where Dr. Lakowicz was primary. The model of matching, joint appointments allowed MBC to hire faculty when it had no space and provided mutual benefit to the MBC and the departments where the appointments were made. The department provided space for laboratory and offices with some funding and the MBC provided funding for salary, seed support for new faculty, and the hope of a future new facility where all MBC faculty would relocate. The other added benefit to the school/department and the MBC was co-localization with new faculty colleagues. The joint appointment model was a very useful and powerful tool.

While the faculty grew, there was no permanent leadership until 1990, when Dr. Edmund Tramont accepted the directorship of the MBC. But even that got off to a rocky start. Dr. Tramont was also Colonel Tramont, US Army. He was set to retire and move to the MBC, however, the first gulf war—Desert Storm—delayed his retirement. By the time he did get to retire, he ended up in the hospital with heart surgery, so he did not officially come on board until September of 1991. It was through Dr. Tramont's effort that Dr. Robert Gallo and his colleagues were recruited to join the MBC in October 1995 as the Institute of Human Virology, a department within the MBC.

So by the beginning of 1998, the MBC had grown by leaps and was a recognizable unit within UMBI and by UMB.



Director Dr. Ed-Schaefer; UMBIer shows the

Faculty hires from 1986 to 1998.

Year	Name	Primary Appointment	Secondary Appointment
1987	Dr. Myron Levine	UMB Medicine	MBC
1987	Dr. Maimon Cohen	UMB Human Genetics/OB/GYN	MBC
1987	Dr. John Collins	MBC	UMB Biological Chemistry
1987	Dr. Burton Pogell	UMB Pharmacy	MBC
1988	Dr. Roger Schultz	MBC	UMB Human Genetics/OB/GYN
1988	Dr. Joseph Lakowicz	UMB Biological Chemistry	MBC
1988	Dr. William Randall	UMB Pharmacology	MBC
1988	Dr. Govind Rao	MBC	UMBC Biochemical Engineering
1988	Dr. Steve Copella	UMBC Biochemical Engineering	MBC
1988	Dr. Dana Hilt	UMB Neurology	MBC
1989	Dr. Peter Melera	UMB Biological Chemistry	MBC
1989	Dr. Mervyn Monteiro	MBC	UMB Neurology
1989	Dr. Rong-Fong Shen	UMB Human Genetics/OB/GYN	MBC
1990	Dr. Ricardo Feldman	UMB Microbiology	MBC
1990	Dr. Joseph Kao	MBC	UMB Physiology
1990	Dr. W. Jonathan Lederer	UMB Physiology	MBC
1990	Dr. Marian Jackson	MBC	UMB Neurology
1990	Dr. Jeffrey Berman	MBC	UMB Microbiology
1990	Dr. Russell DiGate	MBC	UMB Pharmacy
1991	Dr. Edmund Tramont	MBC	UMB Medicine
1991	Dr. Richard Walker	MBC	—
1993	Dr. David Kay	MBC	—
1994	Dr. David Margolis	MBC	UMB Medicine
1995	IHV Faculty (Various)	MBC	Various UMB Departments
1997	Dr. Ann Pluta	MBC	—

MBC FIRSTS

First Full-Time Staff Hire: Tim Hughes 1987



First Faculty Hire: Dr. John Collins 1987



First Permanent Director: Dr. Edmund Tramont 1991

First Paper with MBC on it: Leszyk J, Dumaswala R, Potter, and Collins JH. (1988) Amino acid Sequence of Bovine Cardiac Troponin I. *Biochemistry* 27, 2821-2827.



First Grant funded: Dr. John Collins, P.I., NSF, "Structure and Function of Troponin and Myosin", 10/1/88 to 3/31/95, \$266,459 total direct costs.

