

Volume 23, Number 1, September 2013

## EMERITI LUNCH SEPTEMBER 21<sup>ST</sup>



**John Swartzberg**

### MUSINGS ON THE CHANGING STATE OF MEDICAL CARE

Our luncheon series for 2013-14 gets underway with a talk by John Swartzberg, MD, Clinical Professor Emeritus at the UC Berkeley School of Public Health, chair of the editorial board of the UC Berkeley Wellness Letter, and chair of our own Emeriti Times editorial committee. A member on the faculty of the UC Berkeley – UCSF Joint Medical Program, he is board certified in internal medicine and infectious diseases. Before joining Berkeley's faculty full time in 2001, he spent 25 years in clinical practice. He is also the hospital epidemiologist and chair of the infection control committee at the Alta Bates Medical Center in Berkeley and teaches a two-semester graduate course in infectious diseases at UC Berkeley.

Swartzberg is keenly interested in the practice of medicine and envisions several developments in the delivery of health care. The medical profession is on the cusp being able to make recommendations for treatment based on knowledge of a patient's specific profile rather than on the statistical population studies that have driven treatment until recently. The ready availability of genetic profiling will allow doctors to understand how patients may or may not respond to particular courses of treatment and will also provide insight into the individual risks a patient

faces of developing a given condition. Doctors will also be able to tailor treatment based on their patients' specific microfloral environments.  $10^{14}$  organisms live on us or in our guts and interact with us by releasing chemicals that affect how we live. Swartzberg anticipates the day when doctors can alter the flora so as to change the chemical interactions and improve their patients' health. This approach has promising applications in the treatment of irritable bowel syndrome and autoimmune conditions such as lupus, and will potentially reduce the reliance on immunosuppressant drugs with their pernicious side effects.

Swartzberg also expects changes to how health care is delivered. He foresees the expansion of the medical home model, with health care teams, in which a patient has a designated medical home and works with a cluster of primary care doctors, nurse practitioners, physician assistants and specialists to monitor any ongoing conditions. A patient with diabetes might work with a dietician, podiatrist, optometrist, and ophthalmologist, the team chosen to protect against the foot and eye problems that often accompany the disease. With this new approach, a patient might see his or her primary doctor once or twice a year, but have 24-hour access to nurse practitioners who can contact on-call physicians. Such an arrangement would take advantage of the wider range of expertise held across different care givers, recognizing that the primary care doctor cannot hold all knowledge or serve all of a patient's needs.

Another development will be the use of technology to streamline medical visits and enable patients to take a more active role in their own care. New applications for the iPhone and other devices will make it easy for doctors to do on-the-spot EKGs and ultrasounds, reducing the need for follow-up appointments. Moving beyond taking home blood-pressure measurements, patients may take routine blood samples with a device that will send the reading to both patient and doctor. Swartzberg

envisions an era when patients can monitor their conditions and consult via video with a doctor as needed. Come and listen to his thoughts on Sept 21<sup>st</sup> at the Faculty Club. Please RSVP with the form appended to this Newsletter. (Written by Sarah Herr)

**SHORT TAKES:** More mentors needed for undergrad mentor program. Contact Caroline Kane at [kanecm@berkeley.edu](mailto:kanecm@berkeley.edu), and see info below.

## MAY LUNCH WITH GEORGE BRESLAUER



On Saturday, May 4, the Emeriti Association was treated to a talk on the state of the Berkeley campus by Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost George Breslauer. Scheduled speaker Matías Tarnopolsky, Director of Cal Performances, was called away on a last-minute business trip to Russia, and EVCP Breslauer generously addressed the meeting in his stead. Breslauer, who will be retiring in December, gave an encouraging account of the progress the campus has made in recent years while identifying looming challenges yet to come.

The collapse of the US financial system in 2008 led to deeper cuts in state funding than the UC system had experienced even during the Depression. In contrast to the 25% cuts suffered in the 1930s, the University lost 50% of its state funding and 70% of its purchasing power. Despite this devastating disinvestment, Berkeley has not suffered the loss of reputation that many expected. Aided perhaps by a reduction in hiring across US colleges and universities, and after a budget-driven, two-year slowdown in the pace of faculty hiring, Cal has resumed recruiting outstanding faculty at a pace in keeping with historical averages. Moreover, after an initial loss of some 14 faculty in 2010, in the past two years the campus has been successful in over 80% of

faculty retention cases. Berkeley also continues to attract excellent graduate students. In 2012, applicants for the prestigious National Science Foundation fellowships, who have yet to be accepted into a graduate program, identified UC Berkeley as their top choice more often than any other university in the country.

The campus record is strong at the undergraduate level also. Despite fears that rising tuition would lead to a reduction in applications from lower and middle-class students, the number of applications has risen in each of the last three years, reaching 68,000 in 2012-13. Of California-resident undergraduates, approximately forty percent pay no tuition at all, testimony to Berkeley's generous financial aid policies. Middle-class families (household income of \$80,000 or more) had been getting squeezed by rising tuition, so the campus introduced a Middle-Class Access Plan to provide some financial aid for resident Californians from households earning between \$80,000 and \$140,000 per year. Part of the additional income to fill holes in the budget and to finance new initiatives comes from the much higher tuition paid by out-of-state and international students. Berkeley has been increasing the proportion of non-Californians in the undergraduate student body from 10% to 20%, a target it hopes to reach in 2013. This increase will generate \$60 million per year in additional revenue. A key goal behind this shift has also been to increase the diversity of students' experiences across the campus.

The campus has sought to grow its way out of the financial crisis by increasing its research portfolio, cultivating more donors and donations from foundations, reducing administrative costs, and increasing tuition. For the construction of some buildings (the Blum Center for Developing Economies; the forthcoming addition to the Haas School of Business), new means of donor financing have been critical. In other cases, Berkeley has borrowed money against the yield from donor contributions and investments (California Memorial Stadium and the Simpson High-Performance Center). And in still others, Cal has combined state funds with donor funds and campus debt to ensure the initiation or completion of construction (Energy Biosciences Building; Law School addition; Li-Ka-Shing Building for biological sciences; Campbell Hall for Astronomy and Physics; Berkeley Art Museum). The campus is renovating Lower Sproul in partnership with the student body, which has taxed

itself to pay for more than half the costs. The Governor has declared that the funds for Campbell Hall are the last the campus will receive from the state for buildings, a position that Breslauer believes is not tenable if future infrastructure needs, including earthquake retrofitting, are to be met.

Given that students are paying more tuition, the Campus has taken measures to ensure that they can enroll in the courses they need in order to graduate expeditiously. Several million dollars annually from out-of-state tuition have been dedicated to increasing the frequency that high-demand courses are taught, and the number of sections, in Math, Statistics, Chemistry, Physics, and Biology; next in line is a large expansion of access to introductory Computer Science courses. The number of sections of Reading and Composition courses has also been increased greatly, so that students who were once finishing the requirement in their last semesters are now expected to fulfill it before entering their junior year. Another effort, funded by Cal alumnus Peter Chernin, has been a mentoring program in the English department that sponsors informal events for 200 undergraduates per year to engage more closely with carefully selected graduate students and a cohort of the faculty. The campus is investing \$2 million per year to expand the program beyond English to nine other departments, and hopes to raise a \$40 million endowment to spread the program thereafter to a total of twenty departments. The vision driving this initiative is one of providing many thousands of undergraduates small-college levels of intimacy within the large-campus context.

Despite these promising developments, Breslauer warned that the University faces a fiscal cliff in four to five years due to the impact of rising employer contributions to the pension fund. These contributions may need to reach 18% of the campus's wage bill, and by 2017-18, there could be a structural deficit of \$151 million per year. State policies, if implemented, would amplify this fiscal crisis: the state wishes to freeze tuition for the next four years; wishes no longer to fund capital renewal; and is not inclined to resume regular, significant contributions to the pension fund. Although philanthropy may be cultivated to fund new programs and occasional new buildings, it will not pay for needed pension contributions. Breslauer believes it is critical to convince the state to change its position on funding the University system.

Still, Berkeley continues to impress. The campus recently beat dual-campus proposals from Harvard and MIT and from the University of Chicago and Argonne National Lab to win a \$60 million, 10-year grant from the Simons Foundation to establish an Institute for the Theory of Computing. Berkeley will match the grant with \$1 million per year, demonstrating how campus funds can be leveraged to maximize donor funding. Cal will continue to cut costs, and, Breslauer believes, may realize a savings of \$100 million per year once it reaps the full benefit of Operation Excellence. Finally, says Breslauer with a bit of a smile, contending with the next fiscal crisis is the job of his successor.

(Written by Sarah Herr)

## **PRESIDENT'S LETTER**

Welcome to a new academic year! Though as a retiree, I admit that NOT having my life tied to the academic calendar is one of the biggest benefits. As the incoming President of your Emeriti Association, I know that I have a large challenge to keep the ball rolling as well as did our previous Presidents...being sure that you are informed about issues that impact your retirements, that we stay connected with the current new administration about retiree concerns, that we voice our experienced opinions to help with policy development for our new UC President, and that we attend to other issues that you bring to us.

Your Board Members meet monthly to talk about such issues, and you are welcome to contact us. You are also all encouraged to meet in the informal lunches in the Faculty Club Great Room on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays each month. The conversations are lively, and we "solve" many of the world's problems, or at least, we feel that we do.

We also have lunches with a superlative speaker on five Saturdays each year. This year's speaker schedule, arranged by Board Member Jack Kirsch, starts with John Swartzberg on September 21st. The Faculty Club is the venue, and the camaraderie prior to lunch and the questions after the speaker highlight the feisty nature of our Emeriti whose interests and curiosity generate a lively question and answer period.

Our undergraduate mentorship program matches Emeriti with undergrads, and we could use more Emeriti volunteers (contact Caroline Kane,

kanecm@berkeley.edu). We also participate in mentoring other faculty, led by Kurt Organista with Emeriti participation spearheaded by UCBEA First Vice President Sheldon Zedeck. To volunteer in this effort, contact Shelly (zedeck@berkeley.edu).

There are many changes in the wind, with our new Chancellor, Nicholas Dirks, our new UC President, Janet Napolitano, our ever changing health insurance plans (open enrollment comes in November), and some changeovers in the Fidelity Investment portfolios. Your Emeriti Association Board (see last page) works to stay atop all these changes so the interests and values of our retired faculty are paramount. We invite you all to join us in these endeavors. Becoming and staying a dues-paying member of the UC Berkeley Emeriti Association provides us the participation numbers that convince policy makers that our voices are important. Join us. Give us your thoughts. Welcome to a new academic year!

Best,



Caroline M. Kane, Faculty in Residence Emerita  
Molecular and Cell Biology

**SHORT TAKES:** Join your Emeriti Association using the form inserted into this newsletter for only \$25 per year.

## WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS:

We all welcome our four new UCBEA Board Members. Your Board meets quarterly to talk about issues important to retired academics, and to instigate activities that address these issues. Any UCBEA Member is welcome to bring issues to the attention of the Board. We welcome four new members whose first Board Meeting will be Sept 17<sup>th</sup> this year.



**Beth Burnside:** Beth Burnside retired in late 2008 from her positions as Vice Chancellor for Research and professor of Cell and Developmental Biology in the large Molecular and Cell Biology Department. She was involved in the establishment of the MCB Department when she served as Dean of Biological Sciences during the major reorganization of the departments in the Biological Sciences that took place in the late 1980's. Throughout her tenure at Berkeley her lab conducted research into mechanisms responsible for motile events taking place within visual photoreceptors. Among her many responsibilities as Vice Chancellor for Research, her role in coordinating the establishment of the Energy Biosciences Institute was a particularly challenging adventure. She remains engaged in the affairs of the Botanical Garden in her retirement and also volunteers at Ashby Village.



**John Cummins:** John Cummins retired in 2008 after serving as Chief of Staff for four Chancellors and being the Berkeley Campus' point person for controversial issues for over 28 years. His 36 year career at Cal started as his doctorate of Education brought him to Campus in the formative time for what is now our Center for Studies in Higher Education. He joins the Board still very active in research and policy regarding Intercollegiate Athletics at Berkeley, a topic that he did

not expect to become so expert in following “retirement.”



**Amy Block Joy:** Amy Block Joy is a Cal Alumna (both undergraduate and graduate school) who also taught on Campus before taking a position as a Faculty Member/Specialist in Cooperative Extension at UC Davis where she conducted research on nutrition and health disparities of diverse populations. While at Davis, she also alerted the Campus to financial malfeasance in grants administration that brought an embezzler to justice. Upon retirement, she moved back to “her Berkeley roots,” and she is the Board’s first member from one of our sister campuses, bringing insights to our Emeriti issues from a new perspective.



**Mary Ann Mason:** Mary Ann Mason retired in 2008, and like many retirees she has chosen to remain deeply engaged in her research and scholarly activities. She is a Professor of the Graduate School and continues to be the faculty co-director of the Berkeley Law Earl Warren Center on Law and Social Policy. She very recently published a book entitled, “Do Babies Matter? Gender and Family in the Ivory Tower” about issues encountered by academics, particularly women and women from diverse backgrounds as they navigate their careers at colleges and universities. She was the first woman Dean of the Graduate School, and in that position was able to enact family friendly policies for graduate students, postdoctoral fellows and also faculty that have resulted in the implementation of the UC Faculty Family Friendly policies encouraging and

supporting professional and life balance. She continues to be engaged in research in this area.

## RETIREMENT CENTER UPDATE

The fall issue of the Center’s newsletter provides a harvest of educational, fun, and retirement management programs. It can be found at <http://thecenter.berkeley.edu/centerpiece.shtml>. Here is a quick summary of some of the activity for fall.

**Medical Plans Information Day** – Fall is open enrollment time. Changes in plans are anticipated. The Medical Plans Information Day is set for Nov. 13.

**Alumni & Family Weekend Oct 4-6 (Homecoming) 2013** – In response to the campus wanting homecoming to be more inclusive and accessible, the Center has arranged for retirees to have a formal presence on homecoming weekend: Open House at the Center, volunteer opportunities and a pre-game BBQ. Check the Center newsletter for more information.

**Chancellor Dirks Inauguration** – Retirees can join the celebration of the Inauguration of Chancellor Nicholas Dirks on Nov. 8. Registration information available through the Center.

**LBNL Learning in Retirement (LIR) Series** – Berkeley’s Lab is engaged in state of the art research on energy, climate and sustainability. A four part series in October will highlight the Lab’s efforts in *Bringing Science Solutions to the World*. Lab Director Paul Alivisatos will speak at the first session on Oct. 8. Register through the Center.

**Redwoods: Extraordinary, Ancient, Inspiring** – The LIR Committee presents Keith Gilles, Dean of the College of Natural Resources, who will discuss all the new and surprising findings about our beloved redwood trees. Read more about this September program, *Current Research on Redwoods*.

**Ready to Travel?** – Come to the travel interest group party in November. Learn about exciting offerings from Grand Circle Travel to Cuba, Europe, Asia, the South Pacific and more and how trips booked benefit the Council of UC Retiree Associations (CUCRA).

**Retiree of Distinction** – Read in the fall newsletter about a recent retiree and his experience in transitioning from a rewarding and challenging campus

career to a rewarding and challenging post full time employment life.

**Berkeley Art Museum and the Magnes Collection of Jewish Art and Life** – Join us in November and December for tours of exceptional art collections.

**You Are Needed to Make a Difference** – Contribute to the UC Berkeley Project Day, Reading Partners, Friends of the Oakland Public School Libraries, the WriterCoach Connection and the Department of Geography. All need your help. Contact the Center and Coming of Age: Bay Area for more detail on these and other meaningful opportunities at <http://www.comingofage.org/bayarea/opportunities> or call (888) 308-1767.

**Part-Time Job Opportunity** – The Vice Chancellor for Research Office and Campus Shared Services is looking for a recent retiree to fill a part-time Operations & Finance Officer position.

To learn more about any of these opportunities and events and/or to register for an event, check your Center newsletter, contact the Center at 510-642-5461, [ucbrc@berkeley.edu](mailto:ucbrc@berkeley.edu) or visit our website <http://retirement.berkeley.edu>.

We look forward to fall activity with you. You are always welcome in our offices. We are conveniently located at 1925 Walnut in Berkeley. Be well!



Patrick C. Cullinane, Director  
UCB Retirement Center

**SHORT TAKES:** Emeriti Lunch Table, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays monthly at noon in the northwest corner of The Great Room in The Faculty Club. All are welcome to join in our informal discussions!

## UC BERKELEY EMERITI ASSOCIATION 2013-2014

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Joan Massey  
Mary Mortimer

EMERITI TIMES: Published before each meeting of the UC Berkeley Emeriti Association to provide communication with members about meeting announcements and reviews, Board actions, pertinent campus news and policies, and to reach out to members unable to attend the meetings.

UC BERKELEY EMERITI ASSOCIATION  
LUNCHEON

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2013

SOCIAL HOUR AT 11:00 A.M. – LUNCHEON AT NOON – SPEAKER AT 1:00 P.M.

THE FACULTY CLUB

**Dr. John Swartzberg, M.D.**

*“Musings on the Changing State of  
Medical Care”*

To guarantee your luncheon choice, your reservation must be received three days prior to the event. All entrée options are \$18. Payment can be made by faxing this form to 510-540-6204 [indicate Faculty Club Account # \_\_\_\_\_ to charge], or by enclosing a check made payable to The Faculty Club and mailed with this form to UCB Emeriti Association, The Faculty Club #6050, Berkeley, CA 94720-6050. Call the Faculty Club, 510-540-5678 x2-224, for more information.

<i>Please fill in name:</i>	<i>Please indicate a preferred entrée for each registrant</i>
Member Name:	<input type="checkbox"/> Luncheon Salad <input type="checkbox"/> Regular Entrée <input type="checkbox"/> Pasta
Spouse/Partner/Guest Name:	<input type="checkbox"/> Luncheon Salad <input type="checkbox"/> Regular Entrée <input type="checkbox"/> Pasta
Guest Name:	<input type="checkbox"/> Luncheon Salad <input type="checkbox"/> Regular Entrée <input type="checkbox"/> Pasta

*We look forward to seeing you soon!*