January 2018

Dear Baylor Alumnus,

Major discoveries from the National School of Tropical Medicine are discussed in this issue’s Dean’s Update by Peter Hotez, M.D., Ph.D. Alumni Relations announces opportunities for travel with fellow Baylor alums on trips designed specifically for you and your contemporaries. We also plan alumni receptions throughout the state and in New Orleans.

The New York Times, famous for its detailed obituaries on significant figures in our country, recently featured one of our forward-thinking graduates. Jimmie Holland, M.D., ’52, died recently after a long life of treating emotional stress caused by disease.

You are always welcome to contact me at president@bcm.edu with your questions and comments.

Paul Klotman, M.D.
President & CEO
Executive Dean

National School of Tropical Medicine major discoveries and findings

Major discoveries published recently from the National School of Tropical Medicine included the characterization of a new vaccine antigen for human Chagas disease with evidence for protective immunity. Findings also point to a significant pediatric public health problem in regards to pediatric typhus cases in the Houston area, as well as findings related to the renal complications of West Nile virus infection. The school’s vaccine advocacy and policy activities were highlighted in an article in the December 2017 issue of Texas Monthly.

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Early booking prices available for Baylor cruise to Ancient Empires

Early registration has started for a joint cruise to the Ancient Empires on Sept. 20-28, 2018. Baylor alums will join Rice University and University of Houston graduates for a trip to Malta, Sicily, Isle of Capri, Amalfi Coast, Pompeii and Rome. Reserve by March 8,
The iconic drive along the Amalfi Coast 2018, and save $2,000 per couple.

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Baylor alum Jimmie Holland, 89, was pioneer in psycho-oncology

Dr. Jimmie Holland, who graduated from Baylor College of Medicine in a class of 85 students, rose from rural Texan roots to pioneer the field of psycho-oncology — treating the emotional distress of cancer patients while their medical symptoms are addressed. She died on Dec. 24 at her home in Scarsdale, New York. Her life story was featured in the New York Times.

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Dietary sugar linked to increasing bacterial infections

The increasing frequency and severity of healthcare-associated outbreaks caused by bacterium Clostridium difficile have been linked to the widely used food additive trehalose. In laboratory tests and animal models, trehalose enhances the virulence of epidemic C. difficile lineages that predominate in patient infections, a study shows that appears in the journal Nature.

The problem has been growing for the last 15 years, according to Dr. Robert Britton, professor of molecular virology and microbiology.

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Nominations open for Alpha Omega Alpha Deadline is Feb. 5

The Baylor College of Medicine Chapter of Alpha Omega Alpha is pleased to announce a call for nominations for faculty, alumni, resident and
fellow inductees into AΩA. A lifelong honor, membership in the society confers recognition for a physician's dedication to the profession and art of healing.

The nomination period is open through 10 p.m. Feb. 5. Please direct any questions to Dr. Daniel Chelius, BCM AΩA chapter councilor.