Lynn receives $1M Howard Hughes grant

BY BEVERLY CLARK

David Lynn, Asa Griggs Candler Professor of Chemistry and Biology, has been selected as one of 20 inaugural Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) professors who will receive $1 million over the next four years to bring scientific research into undergraduate classrooms. The grants are believed to be the largest of their kind, according to The Chronicle of Higher Education.

As an HHMI professor, Lynn plans to establish a new training program for undergraduate science students. Research-intensive universities such as Emory have the means and the responsibility to link their dual research and education missions, he said.

“Mentoring of independent undergraduate research has proven to be the single most important and influential educational experience in encouraging students to pursue careers in science,” Lynn said. “Our principal long-range goal is to build a collaborative science curriculum, characterized by integration of faculty research into education, and the linkage of content, theory and practice across disciplines.”

“Science is an enterprise based on experience and experiment; it is not just a body of facts but a way of questioning the world around us so that it gives back answers in which we can have confidence,” said Emory College interim Dean Bobby Paul. “With proper guidance from more senior scientists, undergraduates can participate in this exciting and open-ended enterprise right from the start, and indeed it is the best way for them to develop real engagement with the process of scientific investigation. David Lynn’s leadership as both a researcher and as an educator is a great asset to Emory College students, and it now will be even more effective thanks to this well-deserved HHMI award.”

A key component of Lynn’s plans is to use graduate students as peer role models for undergraduates and create opportunities for graduate students to demonstrate the excitement and opportunities available in science careers, he said. A research competition is planned for graduate students that will allow undergraduates to learn more about the diverse avenues research has to offer. The grant money also will be used to support and expand ongoing HHMI-sponsored programs such as the Summer Undergraduate Research Experience, which brings sophomores and juniors to Emory for a summer-long research program. Undergraduate lab visitations and research opportunities during the school year also will be expanded.

“Emory is a great place to do science,” says Candler Professor David Lynn, whose $1 million grant from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute will help enhance science education for undergraduates.

Winship building hope against cancer

BY VINCENT DOLLARD

Last August, a 6-foot steel beam was hoisted atop the Winship Cancer Institute in a ceremony signifying the completion of the building’s superstructure. The beam carried with it hopes and blessings inscribed by more than 200 Emory cancer patients and their families, as well as Winship faculty and staff.

In that ceremony, highlighted by remarks from Thomas Lawley, dean of the School of Medicine, and Winship Director Jonathan Simons, the focus was on the center’s mission: “To accelerate discoveries that prevent and cure cancer and to accelerate the translation of the new knowledge to care of the patient in Georgia, the nation and the world.”

In fact, Emory’s commitment to supporting a world-class cancer program has grown to include outreach and education, which is part of the reason Winship plays an integral role in Gov. Roy Barnes’ Georgia Cancer Coalition, one of the nation’s most innovative assaults on cancer using funds from the state’s tobacco lawsuit settlement.

The first of its kind in the nation, the GCC unites the state’s doctors, hospitals, government agencies, public health services, community health and survivor groups, universities, industries, and nonprofit organizations around a common goal. Its collective purpose is simple: to reduce the number of cancer-related deaths in Georgia. In this process, all Georgians should benefit from increased education and outreach and from basic scientific research that is translated into groundbreaking clinical trials.

The GCC’s five goals are:

• to prevent cancer and detect existing cancers earlier.
• to improve access to care among more people in Georgia.
• to improve outcomes among people with cancer.
• to enhance public and professional involvement in supporting the GCC and its mission.
• to enhance the state’s workforce in cancer research.

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Former President and Emory faculty member Jimmy Carter has been awarded the 2002 Nobel Peace Prize “for his decades of untiring effort to find peaceful solutions to international conflicts, to advance democracy and human rights, and to promote economic and social development,” according to the Nobel Prize committee.

“I am deeply grateful for this honor,” Carter said. “I want to thank the Nobel Committee and the many people at the Carter Center who have worked side by side with me and my wife, Rosalynn, to promote peace and human rights.”

Carter, on behalf of everyone at Emory University, where President Carter has served for many years as a member of the faculty, we are immensely proud that the Nobel Peace Prize has gone to this gentleman and apostle of peace and understanding,” said Emory President Bill Chace. “We have watched for years as this native son of Georgia has, since his presidency, advanced, in many different ways, a vision of healthy under

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