Advanced ortho program at BU gains new director

BOSTON — Dr. Victor S. Dietz has been appointed director of the Advanced Education in Orthodontics program at the Boston University School of Dental Medicine. He begins his new role Sept. 1.

“Victor has contributed significantly to the department’s educational and clinical mission since joining the faculty in 1971,” says Dean Frankl. “His dedication to the students of our school has remained steadfast throughout the past 35 years.”

Dr. Donald Ferguson, chair of the Department of Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics, says Dietz’s appointment is an important component of the department’s next phase of growth.

“With the projected relocation and expansion of the Department of Orthodontics and Maxillofacial Orthopedics to new facilities at 950 Commonwealth Avenue next year, we view Dr. Dietz’s appointment an important component of the department’s commitment to academic excellence,” says Ferguson.

Dietz is a Diplomate of the American Board of Orthodontics and a member of the Mathieu H. Crier Honor Society and the Omicron Kappa Upsilon Honor Society. He also is a member of the American Association of Orthodontists, the Northeast Society of Orthodontists, and the Massachusetts Association of Orthodontists.

His contributions to the dental literature include publications in the American Journal of Orthodontics, the Journal of Clinical Orthodontics, and the Journal of Oral Surgery.

Dietz, who holds the rank of associate professor, received his DMD from the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine and his MSD and CAGS in orthodontics from BUSDM.

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UMDNJ researcher gets $100k leukemia research grant

NEW BRUNSWICK — Dr. Chih-Cheng Tsai, an assistant professor in the Department of Physiology and Biophysics at the UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, has been named the recipient of a one-year, $100,000 research grant from the Leukemia Research Foundation.

The $100,000 grant is the largest ever offered by the Foundation and is one of seven grants of that amount awarded as part of the Foundation’s 2006/2007 funding of blood cancer research at institutions from across the United States.

Dr. Tsai’s research, Molecular Mechanisms of PLZF-Mediated Acute Promyelocytic Leukemia, builds on prior research completed in his lab that identified two proteins that are factors involved in the maturation of blood cells. This new research project will examine the mechanisms of chromosomal changes in two fusion proteins that keep blood cells from maturing normally, causing several types of acute promyelocytic leukemia (APL). Clarifying how these changes cause APL could lead to better therapeutic approaches to APL, and other forms of leukemia.

“The Leukemia Research Foundation is proud to once again offer significant research dollars to the fight to cure blood cancers,” said Michael Thirman, MD, director of Leukemia Biology at the University of Chicago and Chairman of the Leukemia Research Foundation’s Medical Advisory Board. “It is especially gratifying to provide resources to young scientists, who must compete for funding at a critical point in their careers and in an environment with fewer grant dollars available from the National institutes of Health.”

Dr. Tsai’s program was one of dozens of proposals from institutions around the world that were received by the Leukemia Research Foundation. The proposals were organized by specialty then matched to the expertise of a reviewer by the Foundation’s Medical Advisory Board Chairperson, Michael Thirman.

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