



WAYNE STATE
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SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

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Graduates challenged to provide outstanding service, care and professionalism

Commencement exercises on June 7 celebrated the end of medical school and the beginning of residency for 239 students at the Wayne State University School of Medicine.



Dr. Frank reads excerpts from student applications to medical school recalling the reasons they decided to become doctors.

Dr. Robert Frank, interim dean, celebrated the spirit of the class saying, "The altruism and compassion that this class brought to medical school was further developed as they proceeded through school. They've learned about listening and serving, ethics and human values. In their spare time, this class cleaned up the city, built houses for the homeless, served in soup kitchens and played Santa Claus for kids who were sick and less fortunate."

He acknowledged that residency will present another sea of change, "going from helper, learner and observer to doer, teacher and practitioner." Dr. Frank also promoted the new Medical Education Commons facility that will soon become available to the graduates and to all physicians for continuing medical education. "We want you to be part of our educational system from now until retirement and beyond," he said.

The commencement address was delivered by invited speaker Lawrence Altman, M.D., infectious disease expert and medical journalist for the *New York Times*.

He stressed the public accountability and responsibility of

physicians. "This class joins the medical profession at an historic moment—historic in terms of medicine's effect on society and society's effect on medicine. Medicine has become more newsworthy than ever because of the large number of scientific advances that have been made over the last several decades. But these medical triumphs have raised the cost of medical care and have created an entirely new set of health care problems that we need to solve."

Dr. Altman noted that in the short time since students first filled out their medical school application forms, new problems emerged like 9-11, bioterrorism, SARS and other epidemics, and the FDA approved the marketing of more than 100 new drugs and devices—illustrating the dynamic and ever-changing profession.

Although some people question how a doctor can also be a reporter, Dr. Altman said, "Much of the work of a doctor is a lot like that of a journalist, an enterprising reporter, because it involves getting information from patients and families and then disseminating that information to colleagues, patients and the public. Whatever you call it [medical histo-

ries or interviews], the best clinicians and medical researchers have learned how to interview, how to ask the most probing questions, then listen intently to the answers and finally, analyze that information."

Dr. Altman also challenged physicians to get more political now that the practice of medicine has changed from a private encounter to a public institution. "Learn to speak out on public policy issues. But don't complain to your medical colleagues, because they know. Instead, explain the problem to your non-medical friends, patients and the public, because they do not," he said. He stressed the increasing importance of communication between doctors and their patients and between doctors and the public.

Also honored during the commencement exercises was James Hazlett, Jr., Ph.D., who was the posthumous recipient of the 2005 Distinguished Service Award. As an associate professor of anatomy and cell biology and the assistant dean for basic science curriculum, he earned the utmost respect and admiration of all those who were fortunate to be taught by him or work with him through the years.

Accepting the award on Dr. Hazlett's behalf was Dr. William Crossland, a longtime colleague, who said Dr. Hazlett's greatest contribution was his "tireless dedication to medical students—to their education and their welfare."

Congratulations to the class of 2005.



The Detroit Opera House provides a lovely stage to celebrate commencement.



Chantel Njiwaji, Latefa Woods, Dawncherrie Pickett and Valary Evans celebrate their success.

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Better management practices directly improve health and organizational productivity, says WSU study

After identifying employee needs in the workplace and enacting a year-long intervention to improve specified management practices, workers were measurably healthier and organizational productivity increased, according to a Wayne State University study of 383 Swedish Internal Revenue Service professionals.

Previous research has shown that: 1) positive working environments improve employee satisfaction and performance; and that 2) positive working environments improve employee health/well-being. This is the first study to combine all these elements and measure the links among work stress/management styles and employee health, biologic stress markers, organizational productivity and absenteeism.

"Ours is the first prospective study combining the psychosocial, health and productivity perspectives. We provide evidence clarifying that some of the factors affecting employee health and well-being also affect organizational outcomes such as productivity and profits," said senior author, Bengt Arnetz, M.D., Ph.D., M.P.H., professor of occupational and environmental medicine in the Department of Family Medicine at the Wayne State University School of Medicine. "The benefits of a positive work climate are twofold. Lower stress levels at work offer both healthier employees and a more efficient organization."

The study published in the July 2005 issue of the *Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine* (vol. 47, no. 7) is titled "The Impact of a Prospective Survey-Based Workplace Intervention Program on Employee Health, Biologic Stress Markers, and Organizational Productivity."

A cohort of white-collar employees from Stockholm, Sweden, were divided into workgroups and asked to assess 11 work factors such as exhaustion, tempo, work climate, efficiency and leadership. Based on personal assessments, focused management activities were enacted to improve work situations. Following a one-year intervention, the same employees expectedly reported improved job satisfaction, but more interestingly, they also reported the following psychophysiological outcomes. Study subjects:

- Improved sleep quality and self-rated health
- Decreased cholesterol by four percent, thereby lowering cardiovascular disease risk
- Decreased triglycerides by 16 percent, again decreasing risk for heart disease
- Increased testosterone, an important restorative hormone that facilitates lower levels of stress and good sleep quality
- Increased cortisol, thereby avoiding low levels of cortisol that are characteristic of chronic fatigue, burnout and exhaustion
- Had lower absenteeism and improved productivity



Recently recruited from Sweden to lead WSU's occupational and environmental medicine division, Dr. Arnetz studies workplace stress and organizational health.

Dr. Arnetz believes other studies typically try to reduce workplace stress by using a one-size-fits-all approach. For example, they may universally apply principles to empower employees. This study, on the other hand, studied the management characteristics of various workgroups and gave each of them tailored interventions to address their own satisfaction levels. Each group came back with positive outcomes.

"Overall, the study results suggest that to handle constant demand for improved productivity without causing unhealthy stress, worker burnout, and absenteeism, management should consider psychosocial interventions along with more traditional management interventions. By applying a psychophysiological perspective, we suggest that health might be one additional strategic resource in the process of creating more flexible and productive organizations," Dr. Arnetz said.

Dr. Arnetz completed this study with co-author Ingrid Andersen, Ph.D., from Uppsala University in Sweden, where he previously served as professor and founder/director of the Center for Environmental Illness and Stress at the Uppsala Academic Hospital. Dr. Arnetz is a board-certified occupational and environmental health practitioner in America and Sweden. He joined Wayne State University earlier this year and his research interests include workplace stress, organizational health, management and shifting medical costs.

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Journal profiles Dr. Raz for cancer legacy

Avraham Raz, Ph.D., the Paul Zuckerman Professor for Cancer Research and professor of pathology and radiation oncology, was featured on the cover of the June 2005 issue of *Cancer Biology and Therapy*. He was asked to contribute a personal article for the special "Profiles and Legacies" section that addresses scientific philosophies, career advice for other scientists, and interesting experiences. Following is an excerpt of Dr. Raz's submission. The full article can be viewed at: <http://www.landesbioscience.com/journals/cbt/inpress.php>.

"Sugar Recognition and Metastasis: From Birth of a Research Field to the Clinic"

The invitation by Cancer Biology and Therapy to submit a synopsis of my research activities was received in dismay, due to two questions, why me and am I so old? I still cannot comprehend what I have achieved in life and science.

I am a son of Holocaust survivors who immigrated from Romania to Palestine for an unknown future with only a shirt on their back. I was raised in a small town in the northern part of Israel situated between Haifa and Nazareth. Upon graduation, I was drafted into the army and volunteered to serve in the elite combat force of the paratroop division. During my service I reached the rank of captain and re-entered civilian life in May 1967. Within a month, I was summonsed back to the army and participated in the "Six Days War."

Upon termination of duties, I was faced with a decision whether to seek higher education or to find employment. The thirst for knowledge directed me to Ben-Gurion University in Beer-Sheva and I graduated in 1970. I continued studying for my master's degree in physiology under the supervision of the late Dr. Avinoam Livne who gave me the cornerstone of my scientific career: Never accept a dogma as a truth.

In 1971, I published my first paper and remember thinking to myself, now you are immortal. Your name will always be in the Annals of Science. During my studies, I was injured in my left eye while participating in an army reserve exercise. After a short hospital stay, I graduated with distinction and was accepted for Ph.D. studies with Dr. Rachel Goldman at the Weizmann Institute of Science. By then I realized that my path in life was set. However, life is not as simple as one's desire.

In 1973, I rejoined my army unit for the defense of Israel in the "Yom-Kippur War" and was re-injured in my left eye and lost it after the crossing of the Suez Canal. Following hospital recuperation, I returned to my studies and completed my thesis



in 1978. During the turbulence of studying, serving in the army reserve, hospital stays and adjusting to life with a handicap, I have never requested nor been given leniency, cementing the belief that if could I do it, any one can; no excuse.

In 1978, I joined the laboratory of Dr. I.J. Fidler as a postdoctoral fellow. I still remember coming to him with an idea of how to cure cancer. In response, he took me to his incubator, pulled out a tissue culture dish, placed it under the microscope, and instructed me to examine it. It was a semiconfluent monolayer of growing B16 melanoma cells. Then he took the dish to the sink, poured out the medium, opened the faucet and filled it with tap water, took it back to the microscope, and asked me, "What do you see now?" I saw nothing but remnants of cells and debris. He then looked at me with a smile and said, "You see how easy it is to cure cancer." It was a lesson I will never forget and still try to cure cancer the right way.

In 1980, Dr. Fidler and I published in Nature probably one of the first observations linking an in vitro phenomenon with in vivo metastatic properties e.g., the propensity of cells to undergo homotypic aggregation. Curiosity immediately took over and I questioned: What mediated cell-cell adhesion? It became apparent that cellular interaction is serum-dependent and more precisely, dependent on serum glycoproteins.

At this juncture, I called my friend Dr. Reuben Lotan who did his Ph.D. on lectins, and he advised me to test if simple sugars can block the reaction. Together we found that tumor cells express a galactose specific lectin; however to publish these findings was a different story. At this time, lectins were thought to belong only/mainly to the plant kingdom, and to suggest mammalian cells, in general, and cancer cells, in particular, was unheard of.

Due to initial skepticism, Cancer Research agreed to publish the work only if the word 'like' was added to the title "Lectin-like

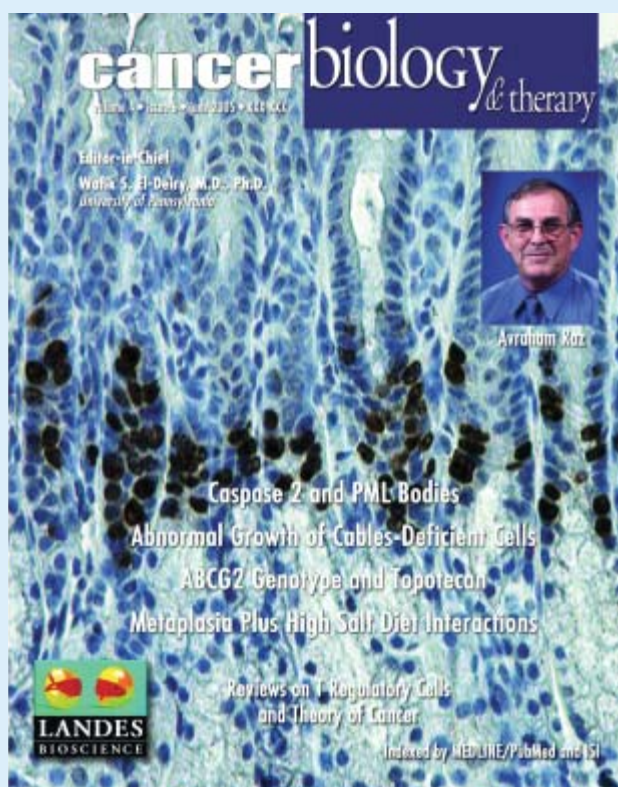
activities associated with human and murine neoplastic cells." The field was legitimized in 1994 when a group of us published Galectins: a family of animal-galactoside-binding lectins" in Cell.

We have focused our research on galectin-3. We have cloned it and generated the first antibodies against it. We have shown that overexpression of galectin-3 is related to neoplastic transformation and progression toward metastasis of human cancers. And galectin-3 expression is now used in the clinic as an independent reliable marker to determine the progression of thyroid cancers.

In the search for a competitive non-toxic simple sugar to inhibit galectin-3 function and block metastasis, we found that most galactose containing sugar are cleared from the circulation within minutes of introduction and thus are ineffective. A different sugar candidate, e.g., pectin, has limited solubility in water and cannot transverse the gut into the circulation. Thus, we have chemically modified it to a smaller linear water-soluble molecule—Modified Citrus Pectin (MCP)— and have shown its binding and inhibition of galectin-3 sugar mediated functions.

When MCP was given orally in drinking water, it blocked experimental and spontaneous metastasis. Thus, a novel therapy based on a new paradigm of inhibition of function rather than killing was proposed and clinical trials are now in progress. I am a lucky scientist who conceived an idea and brought it all the way from the 'bench to the clinic.'

Always remember that the beauty of science is that only the truth will prevail. And in closing, please remember that there is more to life than the four walls of the laboratory. Family and friends will enrich your life and will have immeasurable impact on your career; I know it, since for without the support of Tirza, my wife, I could not have a career in science.



Insulin may offer defense following stroke

There could be a major fortuitous use for insulin, a widely available diabetes management drug. Preliminary data from Rita Kumar, Ph.D., has shown that insulin may have neuroprotective benefits following stroke, or ischemia. She has been awarded her first individual grant—\$50,000 from the American College of Emergency Physicians—to explore this phenomenon further.

Insulin, it seems, inhibits the release of cytochrome c, which triggers the caspase cascade—that is the proteases that mediate apoptosis, or programmed cell death—following stroke. Dr. Kumar administered high doses of insulin to animals with interrupted blood flow (ischemia) and successfully stopped cytochrome c release. Follow-up behavioral experiments showed no damage in animals' function, indicating that neurons and cognitive function were protected.

As a graduate student in WSU's physiology department, Dr. Kumar studied apoptosis pathways in transient ischemic insult and brain reperfusion. She earned her Ph.D. in 2001; was appointed an assistant professor in 2004; and has con-

tinued this line of work. She was turned on to insulin when her colleague, Dr. Jonathon Sullivan, found that it can restore protein synthesis following reperfusion, or restored blood flow.

"That's a miracle in itself," Dr. Kumar said. "Now, it seems, it also blocks the release of cytochrome c, and represents a logical therapeutic choice. It may not block every pathway that is activated during ischemia and apoptosis, but our work thus far shows it blocking a good majority of them."

Her next steps are to characterize cytochrome c release, determine the dose of insulin necessary to prevent it, and to check neuronal survival, particularly in the hippocampus, the most vulnerable region of the brain during these attacks. Her one-year project is expected to provide her with enough data and evidence to pursue this research in earnest.

"This would have huge and immediate implications," Dr. Kumar said, especially because insulin is an already approved therapy. "It could be easily translated from a diabetes therapy to a stroke therapy."



Dr. Rita Kumar believes high doses of insulin can block the damaging cascade of events following ischemia.

Amniotic sludge indicates a high risk of infection, preterm delivery

A curious residue of particulate matter, or sludge, that is visible in amniotic fluid via ultrasound may represent an undetected infection and put patients at risk for impending preterm delivery, according to an award-winning report by Jimmy Espinoza, M.D., assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology and member of the Perinatology Research Branch of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development and Wayne State University.



Dr. Espinoza's expertise in ultrasound and imaging helps put the NIH/WSU Perinatology Research Branch in the spotlight.

Dr. Espinoza's retrospective analysis of transvaginal ultrasounds found that 22.6 percent of subjects who had preterm labor with intact membranes, had amniotic fluid "sludge." In contrast, this sonographic finding was found in only 1 percent of patients with uncomplicated pregnancies at term. In addition, amniotic fluid sludge was also associated with microbiological and histological evidence of intrauterine infection. The report deduces that the infection may be triggering preterm labor in patients with amniotic fluid "sludge."

"Microbial invasion of the amniotic cavity is generally prevented by the normally functioning immune system; but microorganisms can sometimes penetrate intact membranes and invade the amniotic cavity. The maternal and fetal host response would be the local accumulation of proinflammatory cells and their products to prevent bacterial colonization; however micro-organisms may protect themselves by embedding in matrices of polymeric compounds that they produce. We believe the amniotic fluid sludge may represent these clusters of bacteria and pro-inflammatory cells," Dr. Espinoza said.

The composition of the sludge is still uncertain, but

according to this study, the presence of sludge is significantly associated with a higher frequency of positive amniotic fluid cultures and histologic chorioamnionitis, compared to those subjects with no visible residue.

"We propose that this sonographic sign may identify patients at risk for microbial invasion of the amniotic cavity, a condition present in at least 40 percent of all preterm deliveries," Dr. Espinoza said.

This research presentation won first place in its category at the 14th World Congress of Ultrasound in Obstetrics and Gynecology. Co-authors include the following WSU and PRB researchers: Drs. Roberto Romero, Luis Gonçalves, Jyh Kae Nien, Susan Stites, Y.M. Kim, Sonia Hassan, Ricardo Gomez, Bo Hyun Yoon, Tinnakorn, Chaiworapongsa, Wesley Lee and Moshe Mazor.



The arrow indicates aggregates of particulate matter (amniotic fluid sludge) in a patient with preterm labor and intact membranes.

Journal's picture of the month from WSU

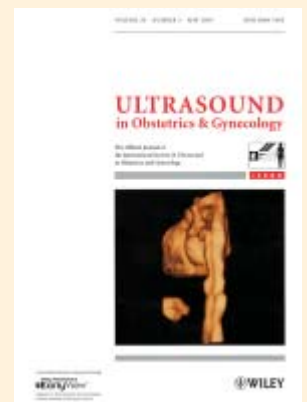
Wayne State University's Dr. Jimmy Espinoza captured the cover of the May *Journal of Ultrasound in Obstetrics and Gynecology* with a novel three/four-dimensional ultrasound rendering of a fetal heart.

His featured article describes a novel rendering algorithm called the inversion mode with which he has obtained more accurate views of the venous connections of the fetal heart,

allowing diagnosis of abnormalities. The inversion mode is a sonographic modality that transforms translucent heart and vascular structures into echogenic voxels, allowing them to become visible through ultrasound. Other fluid-filled structures including the stomach and bladder can also be seen as echogenic structures with this new rendering modality.

Using three- and four-dimensional ultrasound, volumes are obtained and analyzed to visualize veins that may range from only 1 to 4 mm in the fetus which are difficult to see with two-dimensional ultrasound. "This new rendering modality allows us to see more anatomical detail than before and could potentially improve the prenatal diagnosis of abnormal systemic venous connections to the fetal heart," Dr. Espinoza said.

Co-authors on the study include Drs. Luis Gonçalves, Wesley Lee, Moshe Mazor and Roberto Romero.



Fetal heart renderings using the inversion mode.

Buprenorphine eases battle for drug-dependent infants

Although methadone has never received FDA approval for the treatment of heroin dependence in pregnant women, it has still become the favored method of care. While it is “an excellent treatment” for the mothers and importantly decreases occurrence of miscarriage, it does sometimes leave newborns with withdrawal symptoms that demand treatment, said WSU’s Susan Stine, Ph.D., associate professor of psychiatry and behavioral neurosciences. With a grant from the National Institute of Drug Abuse, she



Dr. Stine is leading WSU’s participation in a nationwide study comparing methadone and buprenorphine in pregnant, opioid-dependent patients.

and an interdisciplinary team of researchers are participating in a multi-center study to test an alternative drug that may make the infants’ battle a little easier.

“It’s called buprenorphine, and right now, it’s really the only other maintenance medication that’s available for heroin dependence,” she said. “The preliminary data suggests that the babies of mothers who have been treated with buprenorphine have milder withdrawal, and so it may be an improvement in that sense for the babies. In general, the research that has been done on buprenorphine in head-to-head comparisons with methadone shows that they’re both effective and they may be equivalent in reducing opiate abuse.” A relatively new drug, buprenorphine works differently than methadone. “It’s what we call a partial agonist, which means that it doesn’t have as strong an effect on the receptor (as methadone).”

WSU is one of eight clinical sites in the nation that will be comparing methadone and buprenorphine on a total of 300 pregnant, opioid-dependent patients. The Wayne State component will include up to 40 women who will be taking one of the two treatments, and another 40 who will serve as controls. Besides contributing data on the treatment outcome for the mothers and infants, Wayne State will embark on its own follow-up study of the infants resulting from the treated pregnancies. In the follow-up, Dr. Stine and Dr. Virginia Delany-Black, of the WSU pediatrics department, will assess longer term infant outcome of buprenorphine treatment by evaluating neurologic status, visual recognition, memory, temperament and behavior at six months and possibly again at 18 months for some participants.

In addition, Dr. Stine will lead a separate WSU study on the role of stress in addiction. “We will be looking at how the mothers and newborns respond to both medications with respect to cortisol levels,” she said. “A huge body of evidence from research in animals indicates that stress is very important for addictive behavior. When animals are stressed, they will use more drugs, and they will learn to use drugs faster. In humans, too, an accumulation of evidence is starting to show that stress is important in addiction and that increased stress may lead to increased drug use.” Some studies also suggest that methadone may actually alter that stress response, she said. “The question would be: What does it look like in pregnancy and in newborns and is the methadone effect different from that of buprenorphine? There has been very little work done on that.” Dr. Stine is especially excited about the multi-disciplinary aspect of the research project. “Because this is a collaboration between various medical specialties, we will have to work together closely to make sure that the patients’ treatments are coordinated, so that they get good substance abuse care, good psychiatric care, and good obstetrical care, and that the babies are followed through their neonatal care.”

Other WSU investigators participating in the study include Eugene Cepeta of the WSU pediatrics department; Carl Christenson, of obstetrics and gynecology at Hutzel Hospital; and Robert Sokol of the WSU obstetrics and gynecology department as well as Charles Schuster of the psychiatry department.

Medical school competencies and learning objectives clarify educational structure

To train students for the practice of medicine in the 21st century, the WSU School of Medicine’s administration and faculty have teamed together to take a closer look at the educational principles guiding the medical school curriculum. As part of this review, a new set of student competencies and institutional learning objectives has been developed. The list of Medical Student Competencies and Institutional Learning Objectives formalizes the goals of a WSU medical education, defines what a graduating physician ought to know and provides the measurement and evaluation mechanism to ensure that objectives are being met.

There are six general competencies, which were developed and approved by the school’s Curriculum Committee and are purposely aligned with the directives of the American Association of Medical Colleges and the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education. These include:

- Integration of the basic sciences in medicine
- Integration of clinical knowledge and skills to patient care
- Interpersonal and communication skills
- Professionalism
- Organization and systems-based approach to medicine, and
- Life-long learning and self-improvement

Each of these global competencies is broken down into objectives, and further detailed by evaluation methods and measures. For instance, under the professionalism competency, one of the four student objectives is: the ability to effectively interact with patients, peers and other health care workers from diverse cultural backgrounds. That objective is then measured in third- and fourth-year clinical rotations and in a clinical medicine exercise. A grid outlines each competency, objective and evaluation measure for easy accounting of programs.

“Although many of these objectives have been in practice for many years, we are now formally refining and restating them. We want the overarching messages and the mutual expectations of teachers and students to be crystal clear,” said Patrick Bridge, Ph.D., assistant dean for evaluation, student information and education research. “The formal list of competencies and institutional learning objectives is a sound educational tool that helps us enhance the curriculum structure and train modern doctors in a more uniform way, so that each skill builds up to the next one for a comprehensive and integrated training program.”

“The formal list of competencies and institutional learning objectives is a sound educational tool that helps us enhance the curriculum structure and train modern doctors in a more uniform way, so that each skill builds up to the next one for a comprehensive and integrated training program.”

“This outline helps instructors ensure that students are learning the course objectives,” said Matt Jackson, Ph.D., associate professor of immunology and microbiology and interim assistant dean for basic science education, who embraced the opportunity to re-think his course and re-examine student materials. He is now revising his course learning objectives and blueprinting his exams to ensure he is effectively teaching and testing his students.

In some first-year courses, for example, students get more than six pounds of paper notes and study guides. The competencies, institutional learning objectives, and specific course learning objectives help students simplify lessons, narrow down the information and clarify expectations.

“This enhances curriculum advancement, professional development and sound program evaluation at all levels,” Dr. Bridge said. It also provides a framework for the self-study portion of the re-accreditation process of the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME), which begins early this summer.

A full list of competencies is available online at: http://www.med.wayne.edu/educational_programs/form.asp.



Dr. Bridge announced the newly developed list of Medical Student Competencies and Institutional Learning Objectives that formalizes the goals of a WSU medical education and clarifies the mutual expectations of teachers and students.

Dr. Jerome Horwitz retires after devoting career to fighting cancer and AIDS



Pictured here in 1987, Dr. Horwitz is retiring from active research after successfully extending the quality of life for many people with AIDS.

At age 86, after a half century of developing cancer and AIDS drugs, Jerome Horwitz, Ph.D., decided to coincide the end of his National Institute of Cancer grant funding with the end of his active research career at Wayne State University and the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute. He retired the day his grant ended: July 31, 2005.

Dr. Horwitz is most famous for synthesizing AZT (azidothymidine) while working at the Detroit Institute of Cancer Research in the early 1960s. Although he was working on AZT as a possible cancer chemotherapeutic aid, it showed no promise at the time so he put it on the shelf, without a patent, along with two other novel compounds—ddC and d4T. In a *New York Times* interview from 1986, Dr. Horwitz said, "My colleagues and I said that we had a very interesting set of compounds that were waiting for the right disease."

That disease came along in the 1980s, when scientists were scurrying to fight AIDS, a new condition named acquired immune deficiency syndrome. Dr. Horwitz dusted off his research and found that AZT was active and inhibited the AIDS virus without killing the cells. Today, AZT is useful in prolonging the lives of people with AIDS and is a key reason that AIDS is largely treated as a chronic, rather than an acute illness.

With true humility in the midst of his great scientific discovery, Dr. Horwitz said, "These developments are pleasing because they indicate that the logic attending the design of these compounds was correct."

His scientific achievements have put him in the limelight in

the past several decades. He has been named Person of the Week by Peter Jennings, one of the 25 most intriguing people of '86 by *People* magazine, 1993 Michigan Scientist of the Year, 2000 Michiganian of the Year by *The Detroit News*, and Education '92 Humanitarian by the Design Industries Foundation for AIDS.

After serving numerous roles at the Michigan Cancer Foundation, including chairman of chemistry and scientific director, he is now member emeritus and has been honored with an endowment—the Jerome P. Horwitz Fund for AIDS Research.

Dr. Horwitz is a WSU professor of internal medicine in the oncology division and is a member of Wayne State University's prestigious Academy of Scholars. After serving numerous roles at the Michigan Cancer Foundation, including chairman of chemistry and scientific director, he is now member emeritus and has been honored with an endowment—the Jerome P. Horwitz Fund for AIDS Research.

Dr. Horwitz earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in chemistry from the University of Detroit, his doctorate in chemistry from the University of Michigan, and completed post-doctoral training at Northwestern University and the University of Michigan. In 1956, he joined WSU and the Detroit Institute of Cancer Research, which later became the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute.

Dr. Murali Guthikonda appointed chair of neurosurgery

Dean Robert Frank recently announced that Murali Guthikonda, M.D., has been appointed chair of the Wayne State University School of Medicine's Department of Neurological Surgery, pending formal approval by the WSU Board of Governors.



Dr. Guthikonda has served as interim chair of the department since 2001.

"I have full confidence that Dr. Guthikonda is the right person to lead the school's neurosurgeons," Dean Frank said. "He will continue a long tradition in the department to develop advanced technologies while providing an outstanding learning experience for our students and compassionate care to some of our sickest patients."

Dr. Guthikonda is a specialist in skull-base and cerebrovascular surgery. He is experienced in treatment of complex tumors at the base of the skull using special techniques. His special training allows him to treat difficult aneurysms and vascular malformations of the brain using advanced neurosurgical and microsurgical techniques.

Dr. Guthikonda joined the WSU School of Medicine as an assistant professor and in 1993 was promoted to associate professor. After obtaining his medical degree from Guntur Medical College, in Guntur, India, Dr. Guthikonda completed a general surgery residency at St. Elizabeth Hospital, in Youngstown, Ohio, and a neurosurgery residency at the University of Vermont's Medical Center Hospital of Vermont. He spent time in training at Institute of Neurology in Queen Square, London, as well as in Zurich, Switzerland.

Dr. Guthikonda completed his fellowship in skull-base and vascular surgery at the University of Cincinnati. He has also been trained in endoscope-assisted neurosurgery for cranial-base surgery and gamma knife radiosurgery.

Dr. Guthikonda is the author of numerous articles and a frequent lecturer throughout the United States and India. He has been an invited guest speaker at various skull-base society meetings in other countries. He is the neurosurgery residency program director at the Detroit Medical Center and Wayne State University.

CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION

For more information or to register for conferences, please call Wayne State University's Division of Continuing Medical Education at (313) 577-1180.

October 22, 2005

Neurology for the Non-Neurologist
The Townsend Hotel
Birmingham, Michigan

October 15-16, 2005

OB/Maternal Fetal Medicine
The Ritz Carlton
Dearborn, Michigan

November 2, 2005

6th Annual Norman N. Krieger, M.D.,
Lecture in Geriatric Medicine
The Sheraton Detroit Novi
Novi, Michigan

Jan-March 2006

Regional Anatomy
Scott Hall-Wayne State University
School of Medicine
Detroit, Michigan

April 2006

New Frontiers in Cardiology

April 26-28, 2006

Medicolegal Investigation of Death
The Dearborn Inn
Dearborn, Michigan

May 5-7, 2006

Advanced Regional Anesthesia 2006
The Courtyard Marriott/Scott Hall
Detroit, Michigan

May 15-16, 2006

19th Annual Issues in Aging
Troy Management Center
Troy, Michigan

July 28-30, 2006

6th Annual Update in
Internal Medicine
The Inn at Bay Harbor
Bay Harbor, Michigan

Dr. Donald Weaver named chair of surgery



Dr. Weaver succeeds Dr. David Fromm as chair of surgery.

Donald Weaver, M.D., has been named chair of the Department of Surgery for the Wayne State University School of Medicine, pending formal approval by the University Board of Governors. Dr. Weaver has also been appointed surgeon-in-chief of the Detroit Medical Center. The joint appointment was announced by WSU School of Medicine Dean Robert R. Frank, M.D., and DMC President and CEO Mike Duggan.

Dr. Weaver will succeed David Fromm, M.D., who retired as chairman and chief of surgery last June after 17 years in the role.

Dr. Weaver is board-certified in general surgery and serves as chief of oncology and general surgery at Harper University Hospital. A professor of surgery, he served as vice chairman of the department before being named as interim chairman during the national search for a permanent department head.

"I am delighted that our search brought us back to the experience and expertise of Don Weaver," said Dr. Frank. "His demonstrated leadership within the department and his solid academic credentials will provide the strength to guide surgery into a nationally ranked center for research and clinical care."

"Dr. Weaver has been a critical leader in the rebuilding and strengthening of the Detroit Medical Center's surgery areas. He has helped us recruit and retain many of the best physicians in the state and we look forward to his new leadership role," said Mike Duggan.

Dr. Weaver received his undergraduate degree from Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Mich., and his medical degree from Loma Linda University in Loma Linda, Calif. He completed his residency training at Wayne State University and was subsequently named to the faculty. He is extensively published in the academic and research literature and is a frequent lecturer at national and international conferences and meetings.

Vaccination via nasal spray is possible in future

"The oral cavity is one of several different mucosal surfaces that are exposed to the environment, and most infectious disease agents either enter the body through a mucosal surface or colonize a mucosal surface. It's important that the body has defenses to defend against that," explained Nancy O'Sullivan, Ph.D., who is using a grant from the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research to try to enhance the body's immune response to infection through the two main oral avenues: dental cavities and periodontal disease.

Dr. O'Sullivan, research assistant professor in the WSU Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology, is centering her research on immunoglobulins (Ig). "What we're especially looking for is IgA antibodies in saliva, and to go about that, we are immunizing an inbred rat strain using nose drops. We want to try to formulate our antigen suspension in such a way that it is going to activate the dendritic cells, which will in turn direct a strong mucosal immune response." Part of the body's innate immune system, dendritic cells are sensitive to pathogen invasions and can direct the immune response to activate other specifically tailored immune cells, which have long-term, adaptive effects against particular pathogens.

Working in the lab of Dr. Paul Montgomery in the WSU Department of Immunology and Microbiology, Dr. O'Sullivan is targeting the dendritic cells by using immunomodulators. "We are going to use bacterial-derived substances that the dendritic cells will recognize as coming from a pathogen," she said. "For instance, we're going to use the lipopolysaccharide, or LPS, which is part of the cell wall of a lot of gram-negative bacteria; and an oligonucleotide, or a synthetic short piece of DNA called CPG, that is made up of cytosine and guanine. Each will trigger a different type of dendritic cell."

The ultimate goal of her work is both to understand the biology of dendritic cells in the oral immune system, and to examine intranasal immunization as a vaccination strategy.

"The oral cavity has a large population of the immature dendritic cells in its lining, and they are poised there and ready to detect and to take up any pathogens. We need to understand what kind of signals they get that cause them to activate," she said.

Her work with intranasal immunizations is showing very good immune responses in the upper respiratory tract, she said, which indicates that it is effective against inhaled pathogens. It is also yielding good responses in the tears, which signifies protection for the surface of the eye. "In addition, with the intranasal immunization, we are getting the antibody's response to the blood, which is the only thing you get with conventional immunizations. Intranasal immunization offers the best of both worlds, and it will protect a variety of mucosal surfaces."

In summary, she said, "We believe this research will provide information on how dendritic cells protect the oral cavity from infection and will lead to ways of utilizing these cells to develop more effective vaccination methods to protect humans using nasal sprays."



Dr. O'Sullivan investigates ways to protect the respiratory tract from inhaled pathogens.

Match Day mismatch

The last issue of *scribe* incorrectly labeled some Match Day photos. Our apologies to those pictured and our congratulations to the entire class of 2005 as they embark on residency training.



Preparing for relocation, Alicia Knowles is going to Emory and Anupama Shivaraju to the University of Illinois.



Smiles are obvious for Iftexhar Ahmad and Aniel Majjhoo, both of whom will do residencies in the Detroit area.



Mazen Harake and Waleed Ezzat offer mutual congrats.

Super small needle gives super quick biopsy results

Fine needle aspiration (FNA) is a simpler and faster biopsy technique now in use by WSU pathologists to evaluate a variety of lumps and bumps for cancer or other infectious and inflammatory conditions. A traditional biopsy requires an incision and takes about 24 hours for conclusive laboratory results. Fine needle aspiration requires a simple poke and can be read in about 15-30 minutes.

Using a needle smaller than that commonly used to draw blood, a technician fills a syringe with fluid from a cyst or clusters of cells from a solid mass. The cells are stained by a cytopathologist and diagnostic information is available on the spot.

The most common sites that are biopsied include the breast, thyroid and lymph nodes, said Dr. Mousa Al-Abbadi, associate director of cytology and outreach anatomic pathology at Wayne State University and the Detroit Medical Center. "It is safe, cost-effective and accurate, and it can be performed on any palpable lesion: that is, anything you can feel below the skin. For the patient, it provides quick answers and eliminates stressful waiting times in distinguishing the nature of suspicious lumps."

A cytopathology team is available throughout Detroit Medical Center hospitals to do the procedure at a patient's bedside if needed. "FNA is excellent



The pathology team can take fine needle aspiration services directly to a patient's bedside. Pictured from left are: Raj Bhan, Michael Carroll, Mousa Al-Abbadi, Mujtaba Husain and Jining Feng.

for confirming breast cysts, for example, and since the procedure does not require stitches, patients can resume normal activity immediately," Dr. Al-Abbadi said.

Dr. Al-Abbadi is an assistant professor of pathology and has published findings on the growing science of aspiration biopsy and cytopathology.

WSU study shows disparate lung cancer risk between African Americans, whites

First-degree relatives of black individuals with early-onset lung cancer have twice the risk of lung cancer than first-degree relatives of white individuals with early-onset lung cancer, according to a Wayne State University School of Medicine study in the June 22/29 issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.



Dr. Cote's study has received national media attention.

smoking status and family history of early-onset lung cancer. This information could be used to identify high-risk individuals and to counsel families with a history of early-onset lung cancer.

The researchers analyzed data from incident cases and controls that occurred between

Cigarette smoking has long been established as the major risk factor for lung cancer in the general population; however, the concentration of cases of a disease in families has also been identified as a risk factor. Greatest risk is seen in families with early-onset disease — or younger than 50 years at diagnosis — compared with those whose onset of lung cancer occurred at older ages. Researchers have determined that genetic predisposition to lung cancer exists.

Approximately 173,770 new diagnoses of lung cancer were estimated to have occurred in the United States in 2004; early-onset cases represent 6.7 percent of these cases.

Michele Cote, Ph.D., assistant professor at WSU and the Karmanos Cancer Institute, and colleagues conducted a study to estimate the lifetime risk of lung cancer by race,

1990 and 2003 in metropolitan Detroit. The study included 7,576 biological mothers, fathers and siblings of 629 early-onset cases and 773 controls. One-third of the population was black.

The researchers found that relatives of black patients with early-onset lung cancer had more than twice the risk of lung cancer compared with relatives of white patients with early-onset lung cancer after adjusting for age, sex, pack-years, pneumonia and chronic obstructive lung disease.

The researchers found that relatives of black patients with early-onset lung cancer had more than twice the risk of lung cancer compared with relatives of white patients with early-onset lung cancer after adjusting for age, sex, pack-years, pneumonia and chronic obstructive lung disease.

"This finding could be the result of a higher degree of underlying susceptibility or aggregation of unmeasured risk factors for lung cancer in black families," the authors wrote.

The researchers also found that smokers with a family history of early-onset lung cancer in a first-degree relative had a higher risk of developing lung cancer with increasing age than smokers without a family history. An increase in risk occurs after age 60 years in these individuals, with 17.1 percent of white case relatives and 25.1 percent of black case relatives diagnosed with lung cancer by age 70.

"Family history assessment should be included when evaluating smokers or those presenting with symptoms consistent with lung disease. Further characterization of high-risk individuals is important to provide clinicians with counseling tools and to enhance the effectiveness of screening programs," according to the study. "Family history of early-onset lung cancer in a first-degree relative should be considered a risk factor in other relatives older than 18 years. As knowledge about risk factors (other than tobacco use) for lung cancer increases, physicians may be more likely to consider lung cancer as a differential diagnosis in their young patients. Earlier diagnosis and intervention may reduce mortality and morbidity in this population. Ongoing trials should evaluate the usefulness of screening modalities among those with a family history of early-onset lung cancer."

Tech Tri-Corridor awards WSU School of Medicine researchers more than \$5.3 million

Six WSU School of Medicine researchers received more than \$5.3 million in the 2005 round of funding from the Michigan Technology Tri-Corridor, a division of the Michigan Economic Development Corp. that fosters growth in advanced automotive technologies, homeland security and life sciences.

In addition, two researchers from the WSU College of Science received two additional grants totaling more than \$1.5 million. WSU researchers accounted for about a quarter of research funds awarded, which totaled \$27.3 million.

The grants were the result of a competitive, peer-reviewed process including researchers at Michigan public universities and entrepreneurs working to commercialize technology-based products that have potential to enhance and extend life. The program seeks to fund the best basic research, applied research and commercialization projects in Michigan and encourages collaboration between researchers and technology companies.

Grant recipients include:

- **Dr. Ewart Haacke, WSU professor of radiology, who received about \$2 million for "A National Center of Excellence for Magnetic Resonance Imaging";**
- **Dr. Li Hsieh, WSU assistant professor of audiology and speech pathology in the College of Science, who received about \$1.2 million for "Investigation of Neural Mechanisms of Driving Safety and Speech Distraction Using fMRI and MEG Imaging";**
- **Dr. Charles Shanley, WSU associate professor of surgery, who received about \$950,000 for "Congestive Heart Failure Monitoring Using an Improved Wireless Intraventricular Pressure Sensor";**
- **Dr. Jack Sobel, WSU professor and division chief of infectious disease, who received about \$908,000 for "Microfluidics PCR Diagnosis of Fungal Infection";**
- **Dr. Krishna Rao Maddipati, WSU assistant professor of radiation oncology, who received about \$570,000 for "Anticancer Prodrug Development Program";**
- **Dr. Russell Finley, WSU associate professor in the Center for Molecular Medicine and Genetics, who received \$501,000 for "Tools for Drug Target Discovery and Development of Diagnostics and Vaccines for Pathogenic Bacteria";**
- **Dr. Otto Muzik, WSU associate professor of radiology, who received about \$391,000 for "Software Tools for Neuroimaging in Epilepsy"; and**
- **Dr. Jing Hua, WSU assistant professor of computer science in the College of Science, who received about \$275,000 for "Virtual Histology with Volumetric Computerized Tomography."**



Rounds

Dean search update

It has been six months since Wayne State University Provost Nancy Barrett delivered the initial charge to the Search Committee for the next and 14th permanent dean of the School of Medicine. Dr. Gary Abrams, committee chair, said the search is progressing with assistance from the national executive search firm of Witt/Kieffer. The committee will soon deliver a "short list" of three candidates to the Wayne State University provost and senior vice president for academic affairs.

The committee is currently conducting step 3 candidate visits which are expected to conclude by the end of August. It is anticipated that step 4 candidate visits will be scheduled during September and the last quarter of 2005.

"Because the committee's foremost charge is to deliver a slate of outstanding candidates with impeccable professional credentials and personal integrity, it is impossible to predict our timeline for completion. However, it is my hope as search committee chair to conclude the committee's charge by the end of this year," Dr. Abrams said.

Planning process underway for new medical research building

Daniel Walz, Ph.D., associate dean for research at the School of Medicine, reports that a planning process has been initiated to better understand the school's research space and facility needs, with the ultimate goal of recommending a new medical research building.

The first step is a review of the current research space and to ascertain areas of anticipated growth, as well as gain a better understanding of the research programs that require upgraded facilities. Next, visits are planned to new biomedical research buildings to gather ideas regarding design of labs, adjacencies, building efficiencies, and other components.

The building committee held its first meeting in May and will elicit input from all medical school departments. The committee anticipates that an initial set of recommendations will be provided to Dean Robert Frank by December 2005.

Lions hearing center awarded more than \$100,000

The Lions Hearing Center of Southeast Michigan, a partnership between Lions Districts 11A1 and 11A2, the Wayne State University Department of Otolaryngology and the Detroit Medical Center, has been awarded more than \$100,000 in grants to develop programs that prevent and address hearing loss, especially in infants and children. The organization received a \$75,000 grant from the Lions Clubs International Foundation, a \$25,000 grant from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Foundation and a \$6,000 grant from the Sinai Guild.

The Lions Hearing Center plans to allocate the grants in three areas: 1) testing, treatment and research; 2) education; and 3) a public service campaign.

"While hearing loss in children is relatively common, there is a significant deficit regarding awareness and understanding of this disability, particularly with respect to parents and teachers of the hearing impaired," said Robert Mathog, M.D., chairman of the Lions Hearing Center of SE Michigan and chair of otolaryngology.



Honors

Gary Abrams, M.D., the David Barsky Chair of Ophthalmology and director of the Kresge Eye Institute, received the Paul Kayser Award for Retina Research from the Schepens International Society. In recognition of Dr. Abrams' work in surgery for retinal detachment associated with proliferative vitreoretinopathy, Kresge Eye Institute received an award of \$25,000 to support future research.

Ingida Asfaw, M.D., WSU resident and section chief for cardiovascular surgery at Sinai-Grace Hospital, has been named one of the top 100 national semifinalists (of 4,200 submissions) in the 2005 Volvo for Life Awards. Dr. Asfaw was recognized for founding the Ethiopian North American Health Professionals Association (ENAHPA) in 1999 to address Ethiopia's health care crisis. They completed a medical mission to Ethiopia in June.

John Crissman, M.D., professor of pathology, received an award from the Wayne County Medical Society for contributions to medicine. He was also elected by this year's graduating seniors to represent the faculty in leading the student procession at commencement ceremonies.



Gerald Feldman, M.D., Ph.D., (pictured above on right) won the Director's Recognition Award from Edward Dore, the chief deputy director of the Michigan Department of Community Health, who presented the honor at the Statewide Genetics Summit. The award recognized Dr. Feldman's work in advancing genetics efforts in the state.

Anuradha Goud, Ph.D., of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, received the Young Investigator Award for her presentation on "Role of Nitric Oxide in Oocyte Aging." She presented her poster at the Gordon Research Conference on Nitric Oxide, in Ciocco, Italy. The research was conducted in collaboration with Pravin Goud, M.D., Ph.D., and mentored by doctors Husam Abu-Soud, Ph.D., and Michael P. Diamond, M.D.

Allen Kotel, building engineer for the Mott Center and 110 E. Warren, was honored with a WSU Building Coordinator Service Award.

Yousha Mirza, M.D., assistant professor of psychiatry and behavioral neuroscience, received a travel award to attend the 2005 Joint EEG and Clinical Neuroscience Society/International Society for Neuroimaging in Psychiatry Meeting in Munich in September.

Arathi Raman, M.D., family medicine resident, won first place in the literature review/case reports oral presentations category at the statewide 28th Annual Family Practice Research Day held on May 26 in East Lansing. The presentation title was "Appointment Keeping Methods in Primary Care Clinics: A Systematic Review." Juliann Binienda was the research mentor on the project.

Lanette Rowland, an administrative assistant at WSU's Karmanos Cancer Institute, has been awarded the university's Building Coordinator of the Year Award. She received \$500 and a plaque in recognition of her efforts at a recent ceremony.

Notes

Jianglei Chen, a graduate student from the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, was awarded a \$26,000 predoctoral fellowship by the Greater Midwest Affiliate Research Committee of the American Heart Association. Chen's application was one of 30 funded out of a pool of 90. The title of the project is "Structural Studies of a Newly Identified Specific Chaperone Protein MESD, for LDL Receptor Family." Chen is a student in the lab of Dr. Jianjun Wang, WSU associate professor of biochemistry and molecular biology.

Julie Gleason-Comstock, Ph.D., assistant professor of community medicine, was awarded a WSU Innovative Instructional Technology Faculty Grant Award for her project, "Public Health Emergency Preparedness: Matching Function to Fact."

John Flack, M.D., M.P.H., has agreed to serve as interim chair of the Department of Internal Medicine. Previously, he has served as professor and associate chairman for academic affairs and chief quality officer in the Department of Internal Medicine, director of the Cardiovascular Epidemiology and Clinical Applications Program (CECA), and principal investigator for the Wayne State University Center for Urban African American Health.

Robert Freedman, Ph.D., professor of OB/GYN and psychiatry, has been identified as a top National Institutes of Health grantee and is therefore a study subject for the Columbia-Stanford Consortium on Medical Innovation sponsored by the Merck Company Foundation. The study will try to determine the influence of prominent researchers on the productivity of colleagues.

Philip Furspan, Ph.D., assistant professor of psychiatry and behavioral neurosciences, was invited by the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland to deliver "Cold Fingers: The Pathophysiology of Raynaud's Disease" at a lecture sponsored by the Dublin Molecular Medicine Centre - Programme for Human Genomics.

Richard Gallagher, Ph.D., professor of family medicine, participated in the June 20-22, 2005 National Cancer Institute Study Section Committee G: Education in Washington, D.C.

Edwin George, M.D., Ph.D., assistant professor of neurology, has been elected chairman of the Michigan Parkinson Foundation Professional Advisory Board. **Paul Cullis, M.D.**, WSU associate professor of neurology, was elected secretary of the board of directors following his tenure as chairman of the Professional Advisory Board.

Kenneth Ginsburg, M.D., assistant dean for clinical sciences, has been named vice president of undergraduate medical education for the Detroit Medical Center. In this role, Dr. Ginsburg will serve as a liaison between the DMC and various Wayne State University medical student education programs.

Morris Goodman, Ph.D., distinguished professor of anatomy and cell biology, and professor in the Center for Molecular Medicine and Genetics, has been included in the History of Recent Science and Technology Web site, a project of the Dibner Institute for the History of Science and Technology and the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. Dr. Goodman's work is featured in an interview in a section devoted to recounting, documenting and analyzing the history of molecular evolutionary biology.

Dr. Goodman also published "Moving Primate Genomics Beyond the Chimpanzee Genome" in *Trends in Genetics* along with co-authors Lawrence Grossman and Derek Wildman.

Gloria Heppner, Ph.D., professor of internal medicine, has been identified as a top National Institutes of Health grantee and is therefore a study subject for the Columbia-Stanford Consortium on Medical Innovation sponsored by the Merck Company Foundation. The study will try to determine the influence of prominent researchers on the productivity of colleagues.

Haripriya Jagadish, M.D., family medicine resident, presented "Case Report on Scurvy-Unresponsive Cause of Anemia" at the statewide 28th Annual Family Practice Research Day held on May 26 in East Lansing with faculty mentor Dr. Rosin.

Peter Karpawich, M.D., professor of pediatric medicine and director of cardiac electrophysiology at Children's Hospital, was an invited faculty speaker and chairman at the 2nd International "Pedirhythm" Congress held in June. His topics included "Applications of Alternative Pacing Sites in Children" and "Sudden Death and Defibrillator Therapy in the Young." He also presented original research work performed in collaboration with associate Mark Zilberman M.D., assistant professor of pediatrics, on echocardiographic and tissue Doppler indices of paced atrial function in children. Presentations were published in the *Turkish Journal of Arrhythmia, Pacing and Electrophysiology*.

Stephen Krawetz, Ph.D., Charlotte B. Failing Professor of Fetal Therapy and Diagnosis, and professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Center for Molecular Medicine and Genetics, and Institute for Scientific Computing, published the cover article in the June 2005 issue of *Fertility and Sterility*. The article, "Toward Using Stable Spermatozoal RNAs for Prognostic Assessment of Male Factor Fertility," was co-authored by G. Charles Ostermeier, Robert Goodrich, Michael Diamond and David Dix.

Dr. Krawetz also published "Paternal Contribution: New Insights and Future Challenges" in the August issue of *Nature Reviews Genetics*.

Robert Lisak, M.D., WSU Parker Webber Chair of Neurology, has been appointed chair of the Research Committee of the Board of Governors of the Consortium of Multiple Sclerosis Centers. Dr. Lisak is also professor of neurology and immunology & microbiology.

Kathleen Moltz, M.D., assistant professor of pediatrics, provided testimony before the United States Senate Judiciary Committee, Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Property Rights, to protect domestic partner benefits in the wake of a Michigan amendment prohibiting state and local governments from offering same-sex partner benefits to their employees.

Drs. Latha Sree Polavaram, Vankayala Hema and Awad Khaled, residents in internal medicine, had a poster accepted for the American Society of Heart Failure. The project title is "Aldactone Use in Congestive Heart Failure." Dr. Maya Guglin was the research mentor.

Wahidur Rahman, Ph.D., assistant professor of pathology, has received a funding award from the U.S. Department of Defense Breast Cancer Research Program for his study, "Chemosensitization of Breast Cancer Cells to Chemotherapeutic Agents by 3, 3-Diindolylmethane (DIM)."

Drs. Yelena Selektor, Tarik Hanan and Haroon Faraz, residents in internal medicine had a poster accepted for oral presentation at the International Academy of Cardiology's 12th World Congress on heart disease in July. The project title is "Is Troponin Elevation as a Single Variable Sufficient to Refer a Patient for Cardiac Catheterizations?" Drs. Patrick McLaughlin and Jorge Guzman supported the research.

Padraic Sweeny, M.D., associate professor of emergency medicine, has been named acting chair of the Department of Emergency Medicine.

Med school sweeps Dean's Cup games



The annual Dean's Cup competition between WSU medical students and law students resulted in sweet victory for the School of Medicine. The competition tallies points for a number of events including basketball, volleyball, rock-climbing, a relay race and a fundraiser. This year, the future physicians won all five events and beat out the future lawyers.



WAYNE STATE
UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

alumni

notes

Summer 2005

Volume 16, No. 3

Big numbers for Future Docs

When the first Future Docs event was in its planning stages, organizers hoped to see 50, maybe even 100 participants, but interest clearly exceeded expectations. After growing to over 400 people in 2004, Future Docs hosted nearly 600 participants on Saturday, April 30.

The third annual Future Docs event, sponsored by the School of Medicine, gave kids a wide range of hands-on workshops, demonstrations and activities designed to introduce them to the medical profession in a fun and informative way.

Activities included: demonstrations on the human brain, during which children had an opportunity to hold a human brain in their own hands and discuss its properties; chemistry experiments; and labs involving vision and genetics.



Students answer questions in the genetics lab.



Students learn about the human brain.



Dean Robert Frank watches as participants examine cow eyes.

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Class Notes

President's Greeting



Dear Fellow Alumni and Friends of the School of Medicine,

As I vacation with my family on the Canadian shores of Lake Huron, my thoughts return to May 24th. I wish everyone could have experienced Wayne First's Capital Campaign Kickoff, when the \$15 million gift to the School of Medicine was made public – the largest gift in the university's history! I'm thrilled to start my term as the alumni board's president at this time.

The gift was made by Nick Labedz, in honor of his late partner, Dr. Richard J. Mazurek, who received his medical degree from Wayne State in '61. When Dr. Anthony Kales, class of '59, introduced Labedz at the kickoff, raising his arm and repeating "Wayne First," the excitement was contagious. One of the most moving aspects of Labedz's generosity is that he and Mazurek lived in California but never forgot their roots. No matter where you reside, please remember that your support is imperative to our success.

Join us in funding the state-of-the-art Richard J. Mazurek, M.D., Medical Education Commons. There are many more naming opportunities within the commons; please contact the Development Office for more information. The alumni association has already donated \$1 million towards this project, which is critical to the education of tomorrow's physicians.

What will happen within the commons will transform the lives of many. Education at Wayne State was transformative for me, however what's most important is that the superb training of medical students continues to improve the lives of countless patients. Today, medical school has become more demanding and challenging than even in my day. This applies not only to academics, but equally to life in general, especially the evolving state of family roles. Therefore, I'd also like to emphasize that the primary role of the alumni association is to make life easier for students. Our membership dues and Alumni Annual Fund provide student scholarships and support a wide variety of student programs. None of this is possible without you.

My heartfelt thanks, in advance, for your continued participation and philanthropy.

Warmly,

Paul J. Chuba, M.D., Ph.D., '92

President

Wayne State University School of Medicine
Alumni Board of Governors

Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neurosciences hosts first annual alumni meeting

The Wayne State University Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neurosciences is pleased to announce its first annual alumni association meeting on Friday, October 28, 2005, from 2-8 p.m., at the Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences.

This will be a CME education event, featuring nationally acclaimed speakers with current and prior affiliation with the Wayne State University Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neurosciences. A range of topics on the latest advances and techniques in psychiatric care will be addressed. Participants will learn about advances in our understanding of major psychiatric disorders, including schizophrenia, OCD and substance abuse. Alumni of the department, its affiliated institutions, students and area practitioners in mental health care are encouraged to attend this very informative event.

For more information, please contact Elizabeth Roggenbuck, administrative officer, WSU Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neurosciences, at (313) 577-3430 or e-mail to eroggen@med.wayne.edu.



alum notes

alum notes is published quarterly for the faculty, staff, students and alumni of the Wayne State University School of Medicine. Your comments, suggestions and submissions are encouraged.

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Alumni, students explore career choices

In January, the Medical Alumni Association sponsored the Wayne State University School of Medicine Alumni-Student Career Evening. The annual event is a valuable resource for students who will soon be making important decisions about their medical careers. More than 150 students were in attendance to gather some insight into the options they have. The event also gives students a special opportunity to speak with physicians and learn about a variety of specialties.

Several faculty members and alumni volunteered their time to speak to our medical students including Dr. Robert Frank, '73, interim dean; Dr. Carol Clark, '85, past-president of the WSU School of Medicine Alumni Board of Governors; and Dr. Kertia Black, assistant dean for student affairs. They provided some wonderful advice regarding the process of selecting a medical specialty. Dean Frank informed the students that it's never too early to begin thinking about their careers and Dr. Black spent some time discussing what the students can do to make themselves more attractive for residencies and recommended looking into research opportunities and externships. Following the introductory presentation, the break-out group sessions allowed students to meet with physicians to discuss specific specialties.

Medical school can move very quickly. During their four years of training, students must begin to plan for their future, but only a short time is available for each of them to make their choices. Once a selection is made, it is then left up to the matching system. Ratheishan Rajesan, first-year student, said that Career Evening was quite informative. "It presented a wide variety of options in medicine and it's helped me begin to think about making my decision."

The program included presentations followed by Q&A on the following topics:

TOPIC/SPECIALTY	PRESENTER
Welcome	Robert R. Frank, M.D., Dean
Welcome, Announcements and Closing Remarks	Carol Clark, M.D., President, WSU Medical Alumni Association
Selecting a Specialty	Kertia Black, M.D., Assistant Dean, Student Affairs
Allergy/Immunology	Jane Krasnick, M.D.
Anesthesiology	Avery Milberger, M.D.
Dermatology	Earl Rudner, M.D., Catherine Carretero, M.D., Ayad Abrou, M.D.
Emergency Medicine	Carol Clark, M.D.
Endocrinology	Sheldon Stoffer, M.D.
Family Medicine	Maryjean Schenk, M.D.
Gastroenterology	Michael Piper, M.D.
Geriatrics	Michael Maddens, M.D.
Infectious Disease	Carl Lauter, M.D.
Internal Medicine	Renee Dwaihy, M.D.
Neurology	Jonathan Fellows, M.D.
Obstetrics/Gynecology	Marjorie Treadwell, M.D.
Ophthalmology	Alan Parent, M.D.
Orthopedics	Thomas Ditkoff, M.D.
Otolaryngology	Sheila Ray, M.D.
Pathology	William Kupsky, M.D.
Pediatrics	Zina Laska, M.D.
Physical Medicine, Rehabilitation, Sports Medicine	Gary Chodoroff, M.D.
Plastic Surgery	Ellen Ozolin, M.D.
Radiology	Alkis Zingas, M.D.

The Medical Alumni Association wishes to thank all of the speakers for volunteering their time.



First-year student Ratheishan Rajesan enjoys exploring career options.



First-year student Veneshia McKinney registers for Career Evening.

Harris Online Community

The Wayne State University School of Medicine Alumni Association is proud to announce the newest way to keep in touch with fellow alumni. As a registered member, you are connected with more than 9,200 alumni and have access to information on upcoming events, member benefits, news and more. It is free and secure. Only Wayne State University School of Medicine alumni will be able to join this community, so you can feel safe knowing your information remains private.

In order to register, you will need your membership ID number, which has been sent to you. (If you did not receive it, please contact the Alumni Affairs Office toll free at (877) WSU-MED1 or (313) 577-3587.) Go to <http://www.alumniconnections.com/wsumed/> to register. Once you have registered, you will create your own username and password to enter the online community regularly.

The information you approve for display in your personal profile is accessible only by password to authorized Wayne State University School of Medicine Alumni Association officials and to registered Wayne State University School of Medicine alumni who, as a condition of registration, have agreed not to use the directory information for any purpose other than private, individual non-commercial communication. The entire directory is protected by Secure Socket Layering (SSL) technology.

270 turn out for alumni reunion

Medical Alumni Reunion and Clinic Day took place on Saturday, May 7, 2005. Special class receptions for the classes of 1945, 1950, 1955, 1960, 1965, 1970, 1975, 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995, and 2000 were held at the Somerset Inn in Troy, Mich. More than 270 alumni and guests gathered for the dinner and awards ceremony.

This year's recipients of the Distinguished Alumni Award were Robert R. Frank, M.D., '73, and Donald Muenk, M.D., '68. The recipient of the Recent Alumni Award was Matthew J. Griffin, M.D., '91. The recipients of the Lawrence M. Weiner Awards were Ken Hashimoto, M.D., and Bonnie Sloane, Ph.D.

Earlier in the day, more than 100 alumni attended the continuing medical education program, featuring cutting edge topics, including a radiology mini-symposium, MRI/CT imaging for cardiovascular disease, positron emission tomography (PET), pain medicine and a breast cancer update. Many thanks to the speakers: Drs. Peter Littrup, Kostaki Bis, Subhash Chander, Craig Hartrick and Laura Biernat.

Dr. Carol Clark, past-president of the Medical Alumni Association, hosted the reunion luncheon program at the School of Medicine, which included Dean Frank's update on the school, presentation of student awards, certificates to the classes of 1955 and 1980, and the annual business meeting.

Recent Alumni Award: Dr. Matthew Griffin



After graduation from WSU in 1991, Dr. Griffin entered the Navy as an OB-GYN intern at Navy Hospital San Diego and spent one year at that facility. He also spent time with the Third Marine Division on the island of Okinawa, Japan. He determined that emergency medicine was where he could contribute the most, while getting the most satisfaction from a medical career. It took two more years of work as a general medical officer before Dr. Griffin was eligible for consideration. From August 1993 to July 1995, he served as the physician-in-charge at a tiny "top secret" communications base on the coast of the Atlantic Ocean in "Down East Maine." He also served the retired members of the Navy family in the area, and oversaw the provision of their medical, dental, pharmacy and ophthalmology privileges.

Dr. Griffin considers himself extremely fortunate to be selected to return to Michigan in 1995 to WSU/ Detroit Receiving Hospital (DRH) for emergency medicine training. The three years of training passed very quickly. He was selected as one of three chief residents during the final year and decided to join the faculty at WSU. Upon graduation in July 1998, he was given a position as the associate emergency medical services director with the Detroit EMS system, while beginning his clinical faculty work in the emergency departments at Grace Hospital and DRH.

Dr. Griffin soon became a member of the core faculty at Grace Hospital and served as the assistant residency director/EMS director for a few years. In November 2001 he became the program director for the emergency medicine residency at Sinai-Grace Hospital. He continues to serve in that role, and is trying to continue to expand his teaching at the WSU School of Medicine with work in the Student Mentor Program, and with active participation in the Emergency Medicine Interest Group activities, general clinical education programs, and the Year IV emergency medicine curriculum.

In 1998, Dr. Griffin's third child was born with a chromosomal abnormality that led to severe developmental delays. His daughter, Emily, died after three years of a life filled with multiple medical "encounters." Dr. Griffin and his family created the Emily Ann Griffin Foundation, a non-profit foundation which dedicates its work to supplying financial support to the families of children with special needs. His wife and her board of directors (also known as "the four housewives around the kitchen table") run the foundation. They have purchased medical and other devices for many families and have raised and distributed about \$65,000.

The Distinguished Alumni Award: Dr. Robert R. Frank



Robert R. Frank, M.D., was named interim dean of the Wayne State University School of Medicine in October 2004. He is associate professor of medicine and served as associate dean for academic and student programs before being named interim dean.

Dr. Frank has been a member of the School of Medicine faculty since 1977. As associate dean, Dr. Frank was primarily responsible for shaping a comprehensive medical curriculum. He has made social responsibility an intrinsic component of medical education, bringing an important and appropriate balance to the medical student experience. He has incorporated subjects such as doctor-patient communication, end-of-life care, geriatric medicine, palliative care, environmental-health exposures and understanding cultural differences into the medical school curriculum.

Dr. Frank's major clinical interests are in geriatrics and end-of-life care. He was the chief of medicine at Detroit Receiving Hospital from 1983-1985 and he co-founded the Palliative Care Service there.

Dr. Frank has been active in university and School of Medicine administrative and academic initiatives, and is now spearheading the fund drive for the construction of a new medical education building that will greatly enhance the medical school's ability to recruit top caliber students and to ensure them an unparalleled education.

He is a member of Physicians for Social Responsibility and is a strong advocate for often forgotten patient groups like the elderly and the indigent. He was the geriatrician in charge of the St. Pat's Senior Center Medical Clinic in Detroit for 20 years.

He has twice been a finalist for the Association of American Medical College's Humanism in Medicine Award, and *Crain's Detroit Business* named him a "Health Care Hero" in 2003. In 2000, Dr. Frank and his wife, assistant professor of family medicine, Dr. Sharon Popp, and the Frank family and friends revived a depleted endowment from the Physicians for Social Responsibility in honor of his father, Edward Frank. Like his son, Mr. Frank held a deep commitment to education and the social values of tolerance, diversity and equality.

Dr. Frank received his bachelor's degree in biology from Brandeis University in his native Massachusetts. He came to WSU as a medical student in 1968, and interned and was chief medical resident at Detroit General Hospital. He was appointed to the faculty in 1977 and served as assistant dean for student affairs from 1986 until being named associate dean in 1992.

His major research interests currently are in medical education and curriculum development.



The Distinguished Alumni Award: Dr. Donald Muenk

Donald B. Muenk, M.D., is a clinical assistant professor of ophthalmology at the Wayne State University School of Medicine. As an ophthalmic surgeon, Dr. Muenk, has served tens of thousands of patients trying to restore, maintain or delay the loss of eyesight. He has introduced new technology that is now the standard of care.

His philosophy of always putting the patients' interests first has served as a guide through the competing claims of "new and better" versus standard and known over the past 30-plus years in practice. Dr. Muenk is currently chief of ophthalmology at St. John Macomb Hospital.

A second area of service to medicine has been Dr. Muenk's participation and leadership in organized medicine, not just in his specialty, but all of medicine. Early in his career, this accounted for hundreds of hours per year progressing to over a thousand hours per year in the last decade. Dr. Muenk has served the Macomb County Medical Society for the past 25 years, including holding the presidency. He has served the Michigan State Medical Society for over 20 years on the board of directors and numerous committees and task forces, both as member and chairman. Additionally, he has served the Michigan Ophthalmologic Society both statewide and nationally for over 30 years in numerous positions.

Dr. Muenk received his bachelor's degree in biology and a medical degree from Wayne State University. His internship was served at Harper Hospital in 1968 and he served the United States Army for two years. He returned to Detroit for a residency in ophthalmology followed by a fellowship at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center in New York.

Dr. Muenk has served the School of Medicine since 1991 as a member of the Board of Governors of the Medical Alumni Association, and has also been elected its president and treasurer. He has been a tremendous ambassador for the School of Medicine.



The Lawrence M. Weiner Award: Dr. Ken Hashimoto

Ken Hashimoto was born in Japan and received his medical degree from Niigata University Medical School. He came to the United States for dermatologic training at the University of Maryland and the Massachusetts General Hospital, where he was sponsored by a Fulbright Scholarship.

Dr. Hashimoto joined the faculty at Tufts University School of Medicine where he worked and conducted National Institutes of Health-sponsored research for the next five years. He moved on to the University of Tennessee School of Medicine, where he became a full professor of medicine (dermatology) and associate professor of anatomy. In 1977, he was invited to initiate a new dermatology department at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio, where he organized a residency program and established a research laboratory.

In 1980, Dr. Hashimoto was appointed professor and chairman of the Dermatology Department at Wayne State University by then Deputy Dean Lawrence M. Weiner. During his tenure, Dr. Hashimoto earned the respect of students and peers across the nation and around the world. Of his former trainees, 12 have become chairmen of departments of dermatology (in the United States and Japan), 20 hold academic rank at various universities, and one, Rex Amonette, M.D., served as president of the American Academy of Dermatology in 1996.

Dr. Hashimoto is widely regarded as one of the top clinicians both nationally and internationally, and was often asked to consult on difficult to diagnose or treat patients. He is an outstanding researcher and scientist, being the foremost expert in electron microscopy in dermatology, a field he pioneered. His research led to breakthrough scientific discoveries in dermatology and skin diseases. Dr. Hashimoto has published more than 400 articles and seven books, three of which are current classics: the 5th and 6th edition of Pinkus' Guide to Dermatopathology, Tumors of the Epidermis, and Tumors of Skin Appendages. Because of his prolific research, the dermatology program at Wayne State University became world-renowned.

During "retirement," Dr. Hashimoto divides his time between Japan (where he is still active in research and patient care) and the United States (where he teaches residents). We are grateful for his unending devotion to Wayne State University.



The Lawrence M. Weiner Award: Dr. Bonnie Sloane

Bonnie Sloane, Ph.D., is professor and chair of the Department of Pharmacology at the Wayne State University School of Medicine. Dr. Sloane also serves as leader of the Proteases and Cancer Program of the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute. She was a member of the executive board of the International Committee on Proteolysis (1990-99) and was president of the International Proteolysis Society (1999-2001), where she currently serves as a councilor.

Dr. Sloane served two terms on the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Pathology B Study Section, was a member of the NIH Oncological Sciences Study Section Boundary Team that reorganized the study sections reviewing cancer grants, and was a member of National Cancer Institute Progress Review Groups on colon and prostate cancer. She has been a member or chair of membership and prize-nominating committees for the American Association of Cancer Research and Women in Cancer Research.

In recognition of her expertise, she was recently one of four investigators awarded the honor of mentoring the newly instituted Avon-American Association for Cancer Research International Scholar Awards in Breast Cancer Research. With Lynn Matrisian of Vanderbilt University, she established the Protease Consortium and a series of American Association for Cancer Research Special Conferences on Proteases and Cancer. She is director of a Department of Defense Breast Cancer Center of Excellence, a multi-institutional and multi-disciplinary grant to validate proteases as therapeutic targets in breast cancer and to develop non-invasive techniques to image protease activity and its inhibition as a surrogate endpoint for clinical trials. Furthermore, she heads the Imaging Core of the Center for Proteolytic Pathways, a National Technology Center for Networks and Pathways Grant funded through the NIH Roadmap Initiative.

Dr. Sloane's research group has established a role for lysosomal proteases, primarily the cysteine protease cathepsin B, and the endogenous inhibitors of lysosomal cysteine proteases (the cystatins and stefins) in malignant progression. Her group was the first to demonstrate molecular mechanisms for the increased expression of cathepsin B in human tumors and to identify binding partners responsible for altered localization of this lysosomal enzyme, i.e., to the cell surface. She is a leader in the implementation of cellular imaging in the protease field. Her group has established new assays to follow proteolysis by live cells as they form three-dimensional structures in matrices and migrate through the matrices. This has included imaging of cell-cell interactions and how these contribute to proteolysis, e.g., demonstrating that stromal fibroblasts and inflammatory macrophages enhance proteolysis of type IV collagen when cocultured with breast or colon carcinoma cells. Their studies have revealed interactions among proteases in type IV collagen degradation as well as an intracellular component to this degradation, further emphasizing the need to define proteolytic pathways.

The School of Medicine reaches out to Michigan alumni

Alumni gathered at the Midland Country Club in Midland, Mich., in April at a reception hosted by Dean Robert Frank, M.D., and James S. Bicknell, M.D., '83. Later in June, alumni met at the Chateau Chantal in Traverse City, Mich. The winery, co-owned by J. Edson Pontes, M.D., served as a beautiful backdrop to the reception.

If you're interested in upcoming alumni events or want to learn more about hosting an event please contact Sue Helderop at (313) 993-4179 or by e-mail at sheldero@med.wayne.edu.

1) Chateau Chantal in Traverse City, Michigan



2) John G. Milliken, M.D., '44, and his wife, Elnora, pose with Sharon Popp, Ph.D., at the Traverse City alumni reception.



3) Left to Right: Richard Schultz, M.D., '53, Joan McCool, Marie Phelps, Clark Phelps, M.D., '62, Pauline Schultz, and Dean Robert Frank, M.D., '73, enjoy dinner in Traverse City.



4) James Bicknell, M.D., '83, and his wife, Nancy, arrive at the Midland Country Club.

5) Byron B. Lutes, M.D., '49, with wife, Catherine, at the Midland reception.



6) Robert Genovese, M.D., '79, and his wife, Jeanne, enjoy the event in Midland.



In Memoriam

The Office of Alumni Affairs in the School of Medicine has received notification of the deaths of the following alumni. On behalf of the university community, we extend sincere sympathy to family and friends.

Ruben Meyer, M.D., '39: Dr. Ruben Meyer was born January 16, 1914, in Detroit and died March 12, 2005, in Placerville, Calif. He earned his undergraduate degree from Wayne State University and graduated from the WSU School of Medicine in 1939 at the top of his class. He practiced pediatrics until the 1950s and then began teaching as a WSU professor of pediatrics during the 1960s and 1970s. The family would appreciate any donations to be made to Wayne State University School of Medicine.

Vincent B. Adams, M.D., '52, died May 4, 2005.

Edward Glowacki, M.D., '54, died May 25, 2005.

Editor's note: We know that timely reporting of alumni deaths is important to our readers. At the same time, we must ensure that our reports are accurate; therefore, we ask that friends and family send us either an obituary or a letter of confirmation notifying us of someone's death. Please write to the WSU Medical Alumni Association, 101 E. Alexandrine, Detroit, MI 48201 or e-mail alumni@med.wayne.edu.

UPCOMING ALUMNI EVENTS / MEETINGS

September 6, 13, 20, 27

Mini-Med School
5:30 – 8 p.m.
Kresge Eye Institute,
Eugene Applebaum School
of Pharmacy and Health
Sciences, Scott Hall
Wayne State University,
Detroit

September 9, 2005

Alumni Reception
6 p.m.
Meijer Gardens
Grand Rapids, Mich.

September 22, 2005

Graduate Alumni Reception
and Dinner
5 p.m.
Elliman - WSU School of
Medicine, Detroit

October 5, 2005

Alumni Annual Kick-off
Reception
6 p.m.
Skyline Club
Southfield, Mich.

October 8, 2005

Pathfinders in Medicine
Gala
6 p.m.
Ford Field, Detroit

October 15, 2005

Department of
Ophthalmology Alumni
Reception
Chicago, Ill.

October 16 – 20, 2005

American College of
Surgeons
San Francisco, Calif.

October 26, 2005

Annual Michigan State
Medical Society Meeting
Alumni Reception
5 p.m.
Somerset Inn
Troy, Mich.

Friday, October 28, 2005

Department of Psychiatry
Symposium
1 – 8 p.m.
Eugene Applebaum School
of Pharmacy and Health
Sciences
Detroit, Mich.

November 4-9, 2005

AAMC Annual Meeting,
Marriott Wardman Park and
Omni Shoreham Hotels –
School of Medicine
Reception
Washington, D.C.

November 19, 2005

Charter Night
Ritz Carlton
Dearborn, Mich.

November 29, 2005

Department of Radiology
Alumni Reception
Chicago, Ill.

Alumni Profile: Dr. Dawn Laws values humanitarian acts

Dawn N. Laws, M.D., M.P.H., recently returned from a trip to India with Rotary International, an organization of business leaders that provides humanitarian service to those in need and encourages high ethical standards in the workplace. The purpose of the trip was to exchange cultural, business, vocational and educational ideas, and to create new friendships abroad. In India, Rotary International regularly supports orphanages and schools, and provides vocational training for women and assists them in getting jobs. Dr. Law's five-member team spent four weeks with host families throughout India's northern states.



"When you're away from home," Dr. Laws said, "you see how fortunate you are for what you have. You notice the differences between people and cultures."

Graduating from the School of Medicine in 1998, Dr. Laws received experience working with other cultures. "My time at Wayne State prepared me for my multi-ethnic career," she said. Now working as an

emergency medicine physician in Jersey City, New Jersey, she has traveled around the world, volunteering her time. "I've worked in Nassau, Cuba and Haiti where I dealt with different languages and cultures. At the School of Medicine, we saw a variety of patients from different backgrounds and a very high volume of cases," she explained. "When I started my practice in New Jersey or when I've been in other parts of the world, I've never felt that there was something I couldn't handle."

Dr. Laws works frequently with her local Rotary group and also volunteers her time at the Hudson County Boys and Girls Club where she tutors and serves as advisor to the Jersey City Keystone Club. "As a woman of color, it is important for kids to see someone successful giving back to the community. It's important for kids to have role models who are similar to themselves."

Dr. Laws, who recently won the Mayor's Award for Outstanding Civic Contribution in her town of Edgewater, NJ, also brings clothing, medical and school supplies to people in need while working in other countries. "Donating your time or clothing or even something as simple as old medical journals can have a very large impact on someone. You really can affect people's lives with just a few resources," she said. "Volunteering is something that was taught to me by my mother at a very early age. It's important to give back to your community, which doesn't always mean where you live."



Dr. Dawn Laws worked closely with local doctors in this northern India hospital.

In India, Dr. Laws had the opportunity to work closely with local physicians to learn about differing practices and methods. "There is a focus on a more holistic approach to medicine in India," she explained. "In America, if you have an injury, only the injury is treated. In India, the entire person is treated, both physically and mentally. They have an appreciation for the connection between the mind, body and environment."

The team worked closely with their Indian counterparts. Although their schedules were sometimes grueling, involving long miles traveled and many presentations, Dr. Laws and the other members of the team had the opportunity to learn a great deal about their professions. Members from India's Rotary chapters will, in turn, visit the United States later in 2005.



graduate alum notes

Dear Graduate Alums,

In this issue, I want to update our student statistics for you. The 2004-05 academic year has been a productive period for degree completions in the School of Medicine. Twenty-seven graduates from eight of our degree-granting programs donned doctoral regalia at the fall and spring commencements. An additional 42 students received their master's degrees from one of several basic science departments or the Basic Medical Sciences Program. The accompanying sidebar identifies those recent graduates. The school and its faculty are extremely proud of our newest colleagues and offer heartfelt congratulations to each as he or she begins the next phase of science careers!

On the front end of the training process, student recruitment efforts continue to be productive, as well. Our doctoral programs have made offers of admission to about 35 applicants, while we expect nearly 60 master's students to matriculate this fall. With such healthy recruitment results, the School of Medicine has been able to maintain a consistent graduate student census of approximately 370.

Interviews have been completed and admission offers made to four additional M.D./ Ph.D. students for 2005-06. They will be joining our current group of nine active combined degree students. Adding four new students each year to the M.D./ Ph.D. ranks is rapidly creating an atmosphere of promise and excitement among faculty and students! At the peak of the program we anticipate 30-32 physician-scientist trainees. Although the university has taken on the responsibility of providing tuition scholarships for these students, the WSU Medical Alumni Association—the original financial sponsor of the program—continues to be generous in its support of the program. By providing additional stipends to our students to help defray living expenses, it keeps our program nationally competitive and demonstrate a solid vision of what biomedical education is and can be at Wayne.

As always, your keen interest in the WSU School of Medicine and the progress of our graduate biomedical science training is warmly appreciated.



Kenneth C. Palmer, Ph.D.
Assistant Dean for Graduate Programs

Fall 2004 Ph.D. Graduates

Jamie Anderson

Major: Physiology
Advisor: Barry Franklin
Dissertation Title:
Comparison of Thrombotic
and Fibrinolytic Responses
to Submaximal and
Maximal Arm Versus Leg
Exercise in Patients with
Coronary Artery Disease

Wei Cao

Major: Pharmacology
Advisor: Larry Matherly
Dissertation Title:
Characterization of
Membrane Topology and a
Substrate-Binding Domain
of the Human Reduced
Folate Carrier

Michelle Castelli

Major: Cancer Biology
Advisor: David Kessel
Dissertation Title:
Mechanisms by Which the
Bile Acid UDCA Enhances
the Efficacy of BCL-2
Targeting Photodynamic
Therapy

Sreenivasa Chandana

Major: Pharmacology
Advisor: Diane Chugani
Dissertation Title:
Functional Neuroimaging
of Autism Using Positron
Emission Tomography

Dawn Hart

Major: Cancer Biology
Advisor: George Brush
Dissertation Title: Meiosis-
Specific Phosphorylation
of Replication Protein A: A
Mechanistic and
Functional

Ayana Hinton

Major: Biochemistry and
Molecular Biology
Advisor: Sharon Ackerman
Dissertation Title: Probing
the Mechanisms of ATP11P
and ATP12P Through
Biochemical and Molecular
Biological Studies.

Yong Jiang

Major: Biochemistry and
Molecular Biology
Advisor: Barry Rosen
Dissertation Title:
Mechanisms of Insulator-
Like Element and the
Nucleotide Binding
Domains of a Resistance
Pump

Christian W. Kreipke

Major: Cellular and Clinical
Neurobiology
Advisor: Paul Walker
Dissertation Title: NMDA
and D1 Receptor
Mechanisms of Movement
Control: Differential
Regulatory Mechanisms in
the Intact and Dopamine
Depleted Striatum

Todd Mitchell

Major: Cellular and Clinical
Neurobiology
Advisor: Gregory Moore
Dissertation Title: Mood
Stabilizers and
Neuroprotection

Mahomed-Yunus S. Moosa

Major: Immunology and
Microbiology
Advisor: Robert Akins
Dissertation Title:
Investigation of Virulence
and Resistant Gene
Expression in Candida
Albicans: Studies on
Primary Isolates Form
Patients' with Acute
Vulvovaginal Candidiasis

Gerald Morris

Major: Immunology and
Microbiology
Advisor: Yi-Chi Kong
Dissertation Title:
Characterization of
Regulatory T Cells
Mediating Induced
Tolerance to Experimental
Autoimmune Thyroiditis

Amy Parman

Major: Cancer Biology
Advisor: George Brush
Dissertation Title: MEC1
and Replication Protein A:
Biochemical and
Functional Analysis of an
Extraordinary Enzyme and
Protein

Richard Rhiew

Major: Anatomy and Cell
Biology
Advisor: John Phillis
Dissertation Title: Gene
Expression Profiling of
Chemosensitivity in
Human Malignant Gliomas

Natalie Rizk

Major: Physiology
Advisor: Joseph Dunbar
Dissertation Title: Cerebral
Ischemia Induced
Apoptosis and Necrosis in
Normal and Diabetic Rats

Mahieh Sadidi

Major: Cellular and Clinical
Neurobiology
Advisor: Donald Kuhn
Dissertation Title:
Footprints of
Neurotoxicity:
Posttranslational
Modification of Tyrosine
Hydroxylase

Lakshmi Santanam

Major: Medical Physics
Advisor: Jay Burmeister
Dissertation Title: Clinical
Applications of IMRT to
Adenocarcinoma of
Prostate: Portal Dose
Verification and Intensity
Modulated Neutron
Radiotherapy

Lance Swick

Major: Cellular and Clinical
Neurobiology
Advisor: Gregory Kapatos
Dissertation Title:
Discovery of Human GTP
Cyclohydrolase I Protein
Binding Partners

Lin Tang

Major: Cancer Biology
Advisor: Michael Tainsky
Dissertation Title: Study of
Promoter
Hypermethylation
Regulated Interferon
Signaling Pathway in
Immortalization

Wei Zhang

Major: Pharmacology
Advisor: Bruce Berkowitz
Dissertation Title: Retinal
Oxygenation in
Experimental Retinopathy
of Prematurity

May 2005 Ph.D. Graduates

Jong-Kyung Kim

Major: Physiology
Advisor: Donal O'Leary
Dissertation Title:
Interaction Between the
Arterial Baroreflex and
Muscle Metaboreflex

Shahzad Lighvani

Major: Anatomy and Cell
Biology
Advisor: Linda Hazlett
Dissertation Title: The Role
of Neuropeptides in
Pseudomonas Aeruginosa
Cornell Infection

Janet Miller

Major: Physiology
Advisor: J.P. McAllister
Dissertation Title: Gene
Expression in Congenital
Hydrocephalus and the
Subsequent Effects of
Gliosis

Jesse Miller

Major: Immunology and
Microbiology
Advisor: Melody Neely
Dissertation Title: Large
Scale Screen Highlights the
importance of Capsule for
the Systemic Zoonotic
Pathogen, *Streptococcus*
iniae

Heather Montie

Major: Physiology
Advisor: Donald DeGracia
Dissertation Title: The
Unfolded Protein
Response: Differentiation,
Nitric Oxide and Ischemic
Injury

Pamela Osenkowski

Major: Cancer Biology
Advisor: Rafael Fridman
Dissertation Title:
Regulation of Membrane
Type 1 - Matrix
Metalloproteinase (MT1-
MMP) on the Cell Surface

Javier Sa la-Mercado

Major: Physiology
Advisor: Donal O'Leary
Dissertation Title: Muscle
Metaboreflex Control of
Ventricular Contractility
During Dynamic Exercise
in Normal and Heart
Failure Conditions

Prachi Trivedi

Major: Immunology and
Microbiology
Advisor: Robert Swanborg
Dissertation Title:
Mechanism of Regulation
of T Cell Responses by
Natural Killer (NK+ CD3-)
Cells

May 2004 Master of Science Graduates

Aurelian Belecciu
Dana Bowie
Aime Marcellin Gloi
Amandeep K. Hans
Laura Anne Kehler
Robert Thomas Sieffert
Sarah Michelle Way
Anthony Sanford Burgess
Robert Dennis
Moldenhauer
Christopher Robert Nail
Susie Namu
Adam M. Robin
Caroline Laura Talbert
Alexander Reza Zacharek
Dima El-Khechen
Jennifer Griffin
Stephanie Hurst
Kate P. Shane
Kashif Siddiqi

May 2005 Master of Science Graduates

Rana Al-Khayyat
Ahmed Aly Mohamed Aly
Kimberly Gernant
Forrest D. Halford
Zhijian Wang
Lamia K. Atasi
Heidi Boules
David Andrew Briston
Alyssa Ann Buchheister
Sarah Scheele Burkett
Chethan Madhu Devireddy
Kevin Dewitt
Joel Frederick
Tamarah Friedberg
Elizabeth Ann Herr
Kathryn Baker Moore
Reem Mobarak



Class Notes

1945

George Ritter, M.D., was honored as a father of CPR in Michigan at the recent Metro Detroit Heart Ball, the year's biggest American Heart Association event. For his lifetime of achievement, Ritter received the 2005 Forest Dewey Dodrill Award of Excellence.

1950

Donald Blain, M.D., in 2003 won 1st place at the State of Wyoming Senior Olympics 25-meter free-style swim. In 2004, Dr. Blain presented papers on kidney stone surgery and the development of ultrasound in the diagnosis and treatment of cancer of the prostate at the American Urological Association meeting in San Francisco; presented on inhalation anesthesia in urology in Vienna; and he gave the principle address at the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Union Memorial Hospital in Baltimore, where he discussed care of the dying and their families.

1963

M. Gary Robertson, M.D., has been elected to the board of directors of the Michigan State Medical Society Foundation. He has also been elected chairperson of the Legislative Policy Committee.

1964

Joe Schwarz, M.D., has been appointed to The Michigan Historical Center Foundation board of directors.

1967

William Thompson, III, M.D., practiced interventional radiology until he retired in 2002. He now resides in sunny Arizona.

1968

David M. Barrett, M.D., president and chief executive officer of Lahey Clinic, has been named chair of the Massachusetts Hospital Association's board of trustees. Dr. Barrett joined the board in January 2000. He had previously served as secretary, treasurer and chairman-elect.

1969

John P. Manica, M.D., of Northville, has joined the Michigan Institute for Neurological Disorders. Dr. Manica is a member of the attending medical staff in pediatric services at William Beaumont Hospital, Royal Oak, and is a member of the adjunct medical staff in pediatric services at the hospital's Troy location.

Richard Tirrell, M.D., retired in April 2003, after 30 years of anesthesiology practice. He has married off one son and one daughter, moved twice, built a new house on Hiddenbrooke Golf Course, bought a travel trailer, and has signed up for social security. He is a member of the "Dead President's Society" and the California Society of Anesthesiologists (1993-1994).

1971

Michael Sandler, M.D., of Bloomfield Hills, Mich., has been elected to the American Medical Association House of Delegates

1979

Janice Alexander, M.D., is in the process of opening the "Janice Maternity Hospital" in Mwanza, Tanzania. The Africans decided to give the hospital her name since she helped them get the project started. She is organizing groups to work there. If anyone wants to learn more about tropical medicine and life in a friendly part of Africa, please contact her at janobgyn@naspa.net.

1980

Ronald S. Dubin, M.D., has been nominated to the board of directors of the American Medical Athletic Association and has recently completed 26 marathons including six Boston Marathons, and two ultra marathons (50K). He is also a member of the 50 States Marathon Club.

Joanne Waeltermann, M.D., has been in pediatric ophthalmology at the University of Maryland for over two years. This is an addition to her solo practice in the Baltimore suburbs.

1981

Michael Chafty, M.D., of Kalamazoo, Mich., has been elected to the American Medical Association House of Delegates.

1982

Luise Illuminati, M.D., has joined the staff at Pontiac-based North Oakland Medical Centers as an internal medicine specialist.

1983

E.C. Bush, M.D., has been elected to the board of the Michigan State Medical Society.

1987

Brien J. Smith, M.D., medical director of Henry Ford Health System's Comprehensive Epilepsy Program and the Epilepsy Monitoring Unit at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, has joined the medical staff in neurology at Henry Ford Medical Center, West Bloomfield.

**1989**

Sidney Van Assche, M.D., was mobilized in March of 2003 in support of Operation Noble Eagle, Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom for two years. He was demobilized last month. The Air National Guard has selected him as the Outstanding Flight Surgeon of the Year for 2004. He attended the Aerospace Medical Association meeting in Kansas City in May and will be attending the Association of Military Surgeons of the United States in Nashville in November to be recognized. He will be going back into private practice in Las Vegas in June.

1990

Mary Wisely, M.D., has been granted privileges in geriatrics at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Ann Arbor.

1991

William Cardasis, M.D., was elected president-elect of the Michigan Psychiatric Society, a district branch of the American Psychiatric Society. He currently serves as president of the Midwestern Chapter of the American Academy of Psychiatry and Law. He recently presented a seminar on violence risk assessment in the workplace at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences in New Orleans.

Jeffrey Triest, M.D., joined Oakwood Hospital and Medical Center in Dearborn, Mich., as a urologist specializing in endoscopic urology and complex laparoscopy.

1992

Creg Carpenter, M.D., has been granted privileges at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Ann Arbor, as an orthopedic surgeon.

1993

Arezo Amirikia, M.D., of Bloomfield Hills, Mich., has been elected to the American Medical Association House of Delegates.

1994

David Margolis, M.D., has been elected a medical executive officer for 2005 for Oakwood Annapolis Hospital, Wayne.

1995

Jeff Shiffer, M.D., is pleased to announce that he and his wife, Ingrid, are expecting their second child in October of this year. Their daughter Kathleen will be 1 1/2 years old at that time. Dr. Shiffer is very much enjoying fatherhood and his work at Southern California Kaiser Permanente. He has been with his group for nearly five years and has been chief of pathology at the Woodland Hills Medical Center for a little over a year. He hopes all of his old friends are well and is sorry he couldn't make it to the reunion.

Melissa Sokol-Keith, M.D., is still practicing in Ann Arbor, Mich., but moved her practice one year ago and joined Integrated Health Associates. She had her second child, Brady Nathaniel Keith, on December 20, 2004. Her 3 year old, Benjamin, is enjoying being a big brother. Everyone is healthy and happy. She wishes she could have seen everyone at reunion but had a wedding. Best to all!

1997

Richard Nadjarian, M.D., who completed a fellowship in pain medicine at UCLA, has joined Oakwood Healthcare System as a specialist in pain management and physical medicine/rehabilitation.

1997/1998

Howard R. Belkin, M.D., and **Barbara Herzig Belkin, M.D.**, are proud to announce the arrival of their third daughter, Stephanie Frances, on June 10, 2005. Stephanie joins her two sisters, Alyse, age 2, and Jacqueline, age 1. Both Belkin doctors are in the private psychiatry and psychotherapy practice in Birmingham, Mich.

1999

Peter Watson, M.D., of Detroit, has been elected to the American Medical Association House of Delegates.

2004

Ron Meade, M.D., had his first child, Aidan Alfonso Meade, on January 19, 2005 at 10:12 p.m. The baby weighed 6 lbs., 5 oz, and was 20.5 inches long. Dr. Meade begins his radiology residency at Oakwood Hospital and Medical Center in Dearborn, Mich., after completing his transitional year there in June 2005.



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