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## **Chironian Spring/Summer 1999**

New York Medical College

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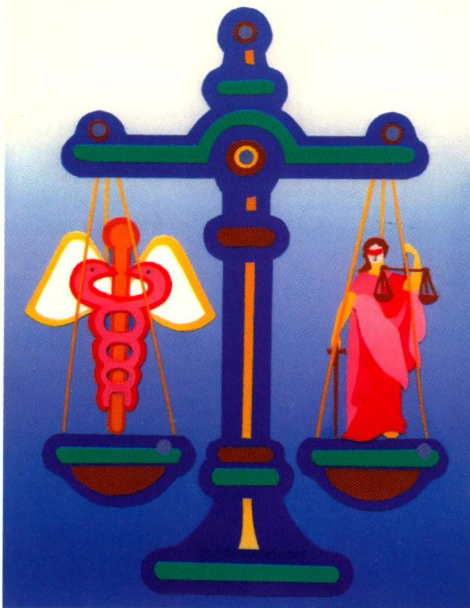
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# Chironian

New York Medical College



Spring/Summer 1999

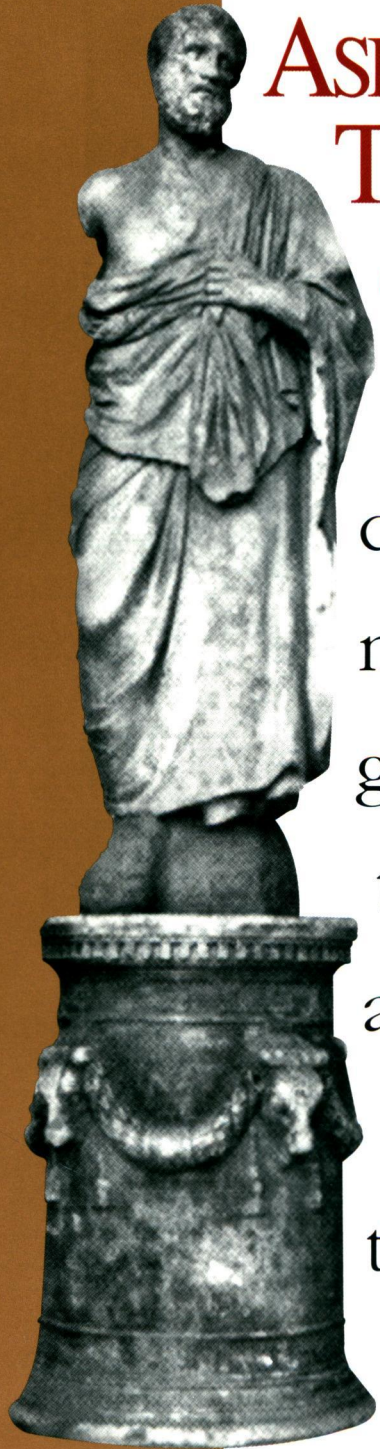
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After You Invent a Drug, Then What?  
Research Sentinel Guards Human Trials  
Three Times an Alum



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Before receiving their diplomas at Commencement, School of Medicine graduates solemnly recite the Oath of Hippocrates, a brief declaration of principles handed down through history as a living statement of ideals to be cherished by physicians.

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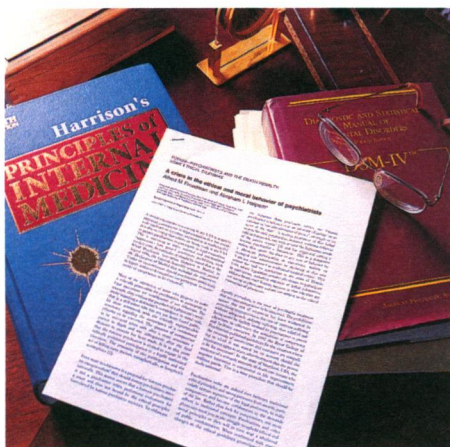
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Ira C. Davis, M.D., is certified to practice Mohs surgery, the gold standard for complete removal of basal cell and squamous cell carcinomas. (see page 5)

Daniel P. Sulmasy, O.F.M., M.D., Ph.D., left, director, and John A. McClung, M.D. '75, are passionate about the new and expanded medical ethics course. (see inside front cover)

Balancing the rights of condemned prisoners with those of physicians who oppose certifying their sanity is the mission of two retired psychiatrists. Illustration by Patricia Ebersole. (see page 11)



Scientists look to nutrition and the environment to mitigate errors of nature.



# Chironian

New York Medical College

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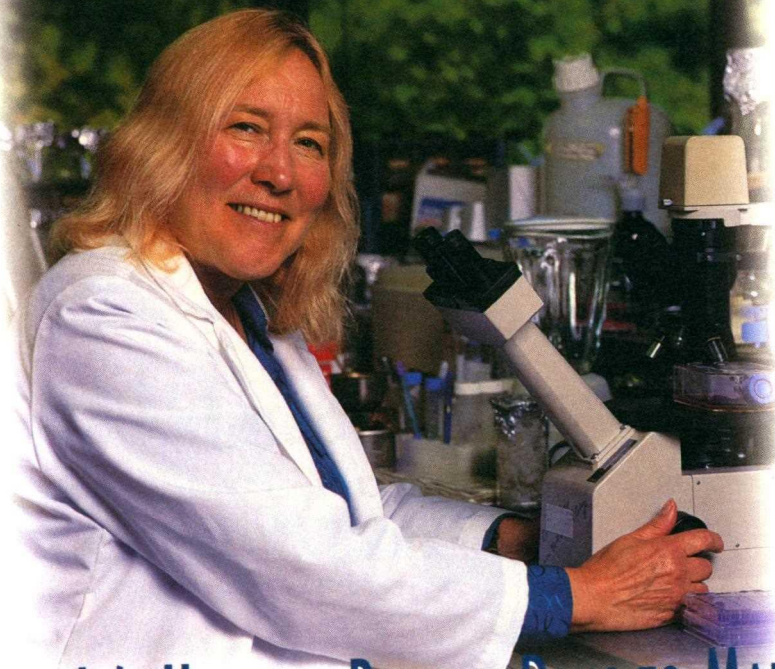
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# DORIS BUCHER, Ph.D.,



## FINDS IT'S HARD TO BRING A DRUG TO MARKET

When the university's Health Services offered flu shots last fall, only 160 people spent the \$10 to get one. Does it mean that most students, faculty and employees here feel they are a waste of time and money? What a cavalier attitude towards a scourge that killed 21 million people worldwide during the First World War and 20,000 during nine epidemics since then. This indifference to vaccination is all the more vexing because there is no effective medication to treat influenza. All of which explains why Doris Bucher, Ph.D., associate professor of microbiology and

(continued on page 8)

## Upcoming Continuing Medical Education

### June 28 and July 19

*Interactive Training on Lyme Disease and Other Tick Borne Illness for Healthcare Providers*

Program Director: John Nowakowski, M.D.  
Baird Auditorium, Cedarwood Hall, Valhalla, N.Y.

### September 23

*Urology Conference for Primary Care Providers*

Program Director: Camille Mallouh, M.D.  
Baird Auditorium, Cedarwood Hall, Valhalla, N.Y.

### September 30-October 1

*Current Concepts in Shoulder and Elbow Reconstructive Surgery*

Program Chairman: Steven Zelicof, M.D., Ph.D.  
Westchester Country Club, Harrison, N.Y.

### October 8

*Psychiatry Conference*

Program Chairman: Robert Feinstein, M.D.  
Baird Auditorium, Cedarwood Hall, Valhalla, N.Y.

### November 6

*Pediatric Trauma Care Symposium*

Program Chairman: Michel Slim, M.D.  
Baird Auditorium, Cedarwood Hall, Valhalla, N.Y.

### December 1

*Pediatric Orthopaedic Conference*

Program Chairman: Robert Cristofaro, M.D.  
Westchester Country Club, Harrison, N.Y.

For further information, please contact the Office of Continuing Medical Education (914) 594-4487.



# Skin Cancer Has Its Very Own Fix: Mohs Surgery



While the human body is among the most venerated of objects, all its components are not equally esteemed. The skin is more commonly taken for granted; the epidermis, underlying dermis and fatty layer beneath simply do not command the respect of say, a heart, a liver or a brain. Yet a human being is just as dependent on this largest of human organs which helps to regulate body temperature and fluid balance, protects like a shield against infection and environmental substances, and plays a key role in emotional health via the sense of touch. But while the skin shares the fate of its cellular brethren in getting cancer, it displays one big advantage in terms of treatment and cure. The skin alone submits to Mohs micrographic surgery, a little known approach in which the dermatologist acts as surgeon, pathologist and reconstructive surgeon. Mohs is the advanced surgical treatment for skin cancer that offers the highest five-year

cure rate—up to 99 percent and 95 percent for recurrent cancer—according to the American College of Mohs Micrographic Surgery and Cutaneous Oncology (Mohs College) in Schaumburg, Ill.

Introduced by Frederic E. Mohs, M.D., in 1941, Mohs surgery presents the best chance for complete removal of basal cell and squamous cell carcinomas, which number 1 million cases a year in the U.S. The technique that spares surrounding healthy tissue and diminishes the potential for scarring and disfigurement is exercised at New York Medical College by Ira C. Davis, M.D., assistant professor of dermatology, who practices from department offices in Munger Pavilion and affiliated Bayley Seton Hospital in Staten Island.

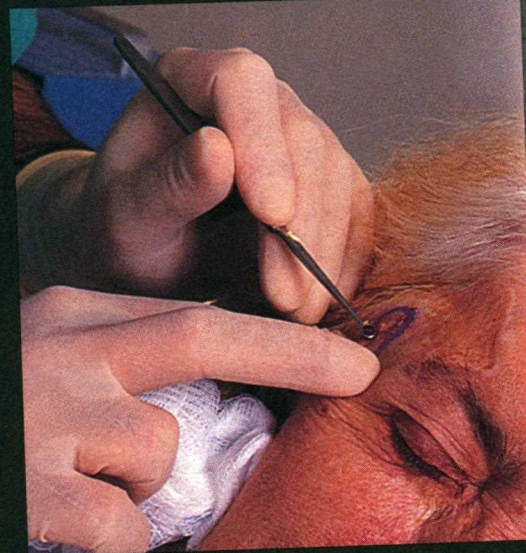
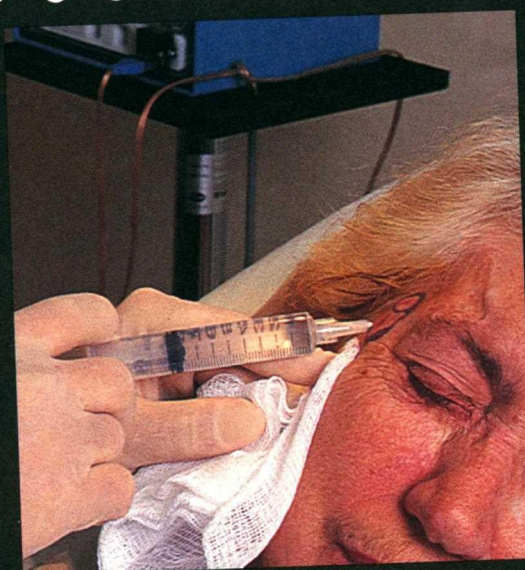
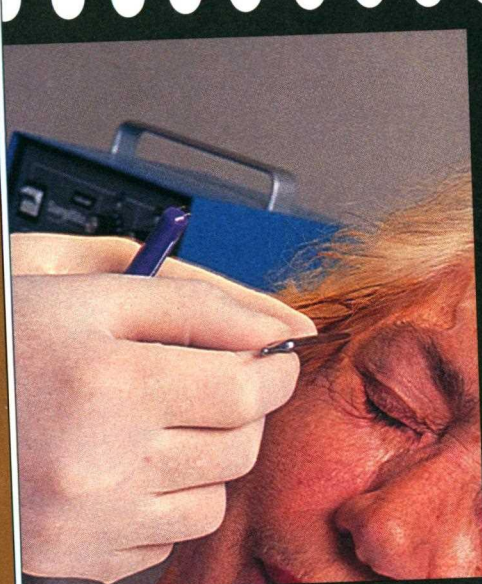
## Qualifying for Membership

In order to qualify as a Mohs surgeon, Dr. Davis completed a

Mohs College-approved, one-year fellowship in dermatologic surgery at Bowman Gray School of Medicine, Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, N.C., following his residency in dermatology at Duke University Medical Center, Durham, N.C. He is one of 450 members of the Mohs College, nearly all of whom are dermatologists, advises Sherry Traficano, executive director. After three years as an associate member and 300 cases to his credit, Dr. Davis qualified as a fellow of the college. He currently has more than 1,400 cases under his belt.

“Recent figures from a National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey showed that dermatologists have much more experience than plastic surgeons or general physicians in managing patients with skin cancer,” he says. “Mohs allows the clinician to act as surgeon and pathologist, providing a direct



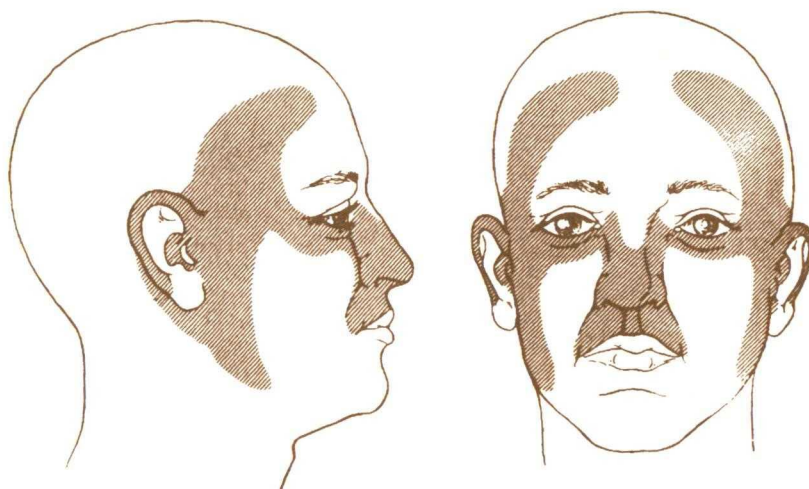


*Margaret Tavalacci has been plagued by basal cell carcinoma all over her face and trunk. Referred by her primary care physician and dermatologist in Rockland County, she began Mohs surgical treatment with Ira Davis, M.D., two years ago after her scraped and burned lesions recurred. Now Mrs. Tavalacci visits Dr. Davis every three months to keep up with her skin cancer; the reason for its repeated incidence is unclear. She remembers having taken cough medicine as a child that contained arsenic, but this carcinogen associates better with squamous cell carcinoma. No one in her family has a similar condition.*

clinical pathologic correlation. It means you see the tumor, its extent, its physical characteristics and potential to spread, and then examine the tissue under the microscope where the clinical spread can be evaluated. You go back to the patient and maintain the link."

Surgery (conventional and Mohs), only one of five major ways to contain skin cancer, is used in 90 percent of cases. The remainder yield to radiation therapy, electrodesiccation (destruction by heat), cryosurgery (destruction by freezing) and laser therapy (for early skin lesions). In malignant melanoma, the primary growth

must be adequately excised, and it may be necessary to remove nearby lymph nodes. While some Mohs-qualified dermatologists also use it for melanoma, Dr. Davis currently does not. Applying Mohs to one of the deadliest cancers requires the collaboration of pathologists in making permanent sections of the lesion, something Dr. Davis contemplates he will organize in the near future.

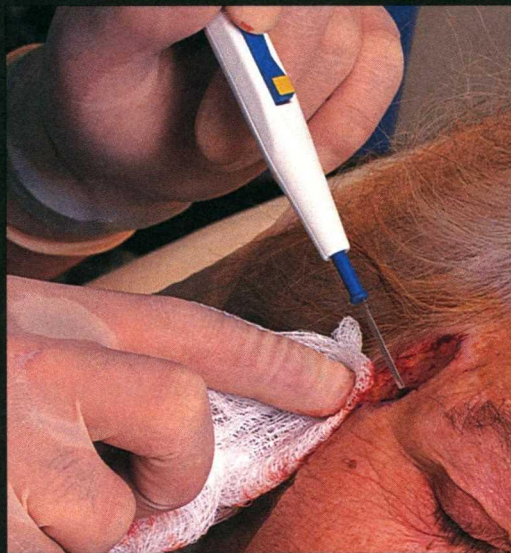
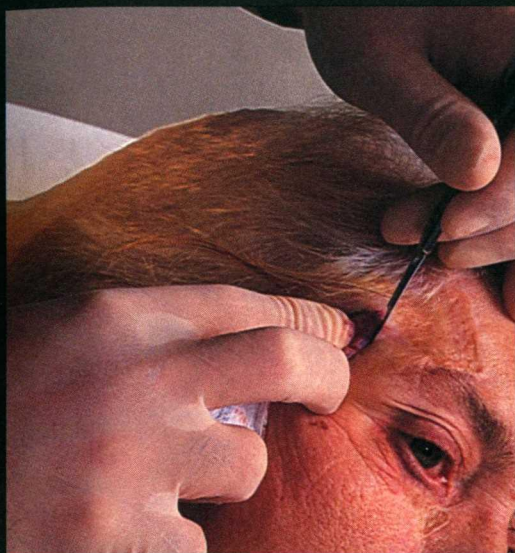


*Tumor location plays an important role in treating basal cell carcinoma. The shaded areas in this schematic presentation represent an "H" zone on the face, including around the external ear, which warrants special consideration for Mohs surgery. (Reprinted with permission, Archives of Dermatology, 119:761, 1983, Copyright 1983, American Medical Association.)*

## How it's done

The Mohs process begins with a specific sequence of surgery and pathology, followed by an examination of removed tissue for evidence of extended cancer roots. Once he eliminates the obvious tumor, a Mohs surgeon removes an additional layer from the tumor site, creating a "map" of sections of the excised tissue that is color coded to reference marks placed on the skin. The sketch is used as a guide to the exact location of any remaining cancer cells. The removed tissue is then examined under a microscope to check for





*On this particular day, Dr. Davis worked on several lesions. First he removed the tumor and an additional layer from the site for microscopic examination. He continued, layer by layer, to remove tissue until no cancer cells remained. After closing the wound, Dr. Davis proceeded to the next site. He operated only with a local anesthetic and Mrs. Tavolacci was conscious the entire time.*

run. He says that with its high cure rate, it minimizes the risk of recurrence and eliminates the costs of more comprehensive surgery for recurrent cancers. And because the procedure can be done in the surgeon's office and pathological exams are concurrent, the entire process usually is completed in one day. Furthermore, since Mohs surgery preserves the maximum amount of normal skin and results in smaller scars, repairs are less complicated and involve fewer major reconstructive procedures. ■

remaining cancer cells. If there are any, the map will enable the surgeon to find the specific area of the tumor site so he can remove another thin layer of tissue only from that area where cancer cells were detected. The newly removed tissue is examined microscopically for additional cancer cells, and if some are found, the process continues, layer by layer, until the cancer is completely eliminated.

Mohs surgery is the gold standard for recurrent cancer or when scar tissue exists in the area of the lesion; when a cancer is large or in a difficult area where it is important to preserve healthy tissue, such as eyelids, nose, ears and lips; when a cancer cannot be clearly defined, or when it grows rapidly or uncontrollably.

### Fixing the wound

Since Mohs surgeons also are trained in reconstructive procedures, they are able to repair their own handiwork. "Sometimes

we just let the wound granulate in—close on its own," Dr. Davis explains. "Or in a primary closure, we sew it from side to side. When we want to use a flap, we borrow from a donor site adjacent to the lesion...If we need a skin graft, we take it from in front of or behind the ear, the top of the collarbone or the bowl of the ear." But when the tumor is large or in a very sensitive location, Dr. Davis defers to other professionals: "I send my patients to ENTs [otolaryngologists], plastic surgeons and oculoplastic surgeons. Often they are the very physicians who referred these patients to me."

He observes that Mohs surgery consumes an average three to four hours in treatment of one patient, costing between \$1,000 and \$1,500; insurance companies pay by the number of skin layers removed and the type of repair. Medicare does not require preapproval, but most managed care companies do. Still, Dr. Davis insists Mohs surgery can be cost-effective in the long

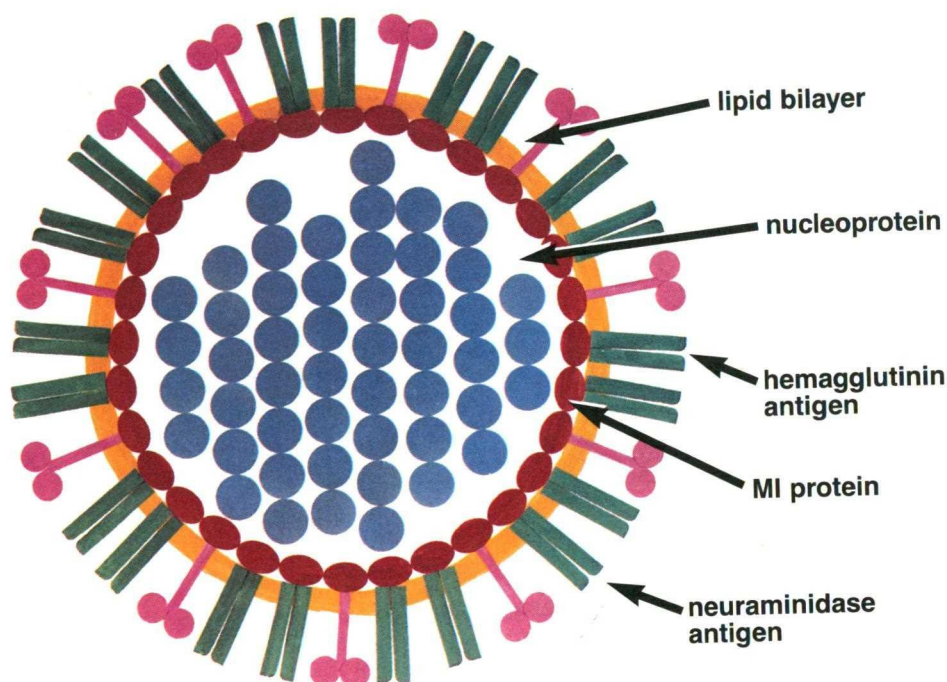
## ABCDs of Melanoma

People who are health savvy check their bodies regularly for skin cancer. The American Cancer Society warns that any unusual sore, lump, blemish, other skin marking or change in the way an area of skin looks or feels may be a sign of skin cancer or a warning that it is likely to occur. Use the **ABCD** rule to help tell a normal mole or other marking from one that could be deadly melanoma.

- **Asymmetry:** one half does not match the other.
- **Border irregularity:** the edges of the mole are ragged, notched or blurred.
- **Color:** The color is not even all over the mole, but may be differing shades of tan, brown or black, sometimes with patches of red, white or blue.
- **Diameter:** The mole is wider than 6 millimeters (1/4") or is growing larger.



**Doris Bucher, Ph.D.** (continued from page 4)



*Schematic of an influenza particle (virion) (Courtesy of Doris Bucher, Ph.D.)*

immunology, has spent the last decade trying to come up with one. The fruit of her pursuit is Peptide 6, an experimental antiviral drug now patented by New York Medical College that she co-invented and endowed with such an undistinguished name. Its market could be huge. Between 26 million and 55 million people get the flu each year at an estimated cost of \$12 billion in health care and lost productivity. Most of them are healthy mortals made miserable suffering the flu's abrupt onset of fever, aches and pains, sore throat and cough.

Co-inventor and collaborator is Amrit Judd, Ph.D., a chemist at Syn Vax in Belmont, Calif., which has been granted \$400,000 by the National Institutes of Health to further develop Peptide 6. Dr. Bucher's interest in influenza was primed by her association with Edwin D. Kilbourne, M.D., when she was a member of his

department at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York City. (Dr. Kilbourne, a world renowned influenza expert, has since joined the College as a professor of microbiology and immunology.) Drs. Bucher and Judd based their novel therapeutic approach for Peptide 6 on the ability of the flu cell's matrix protein (MI)—the most abundant protein in the virus cell—to inhibit its own polymerase (transcriptase), an enzyme vital to replication. "In our investigation we found several peptides [compounds of amino acids comprising short segments of the MI protein] that would also inhibit the polymerase, and we tested their efficacy by synthesizing them," Dr. Bucher says. "We discovered that one component of MI was 1,000 times stronger in inhibiting cell replication than MI itself." This component, Peptide 6, turned out to be effective against both influenza A and B viruses, something existing drugs were not.

## Prevailing antivirals

There are two antiviral drugs currently approved for use against influenza: amantadine and rimantadine. They are better, however, at preventing flu than treating it once an infection has developed, and neither is effective against type B viruses. Moreover, resistant viruses begin to emerge with treatment, and both drugs have central nervous system and gastrointestinal side effects that are hard on the elderly and others with underlying health problems.

While Dr. Bucher looks for development funds to kick off the animal trials that must precede human trials, new antivirals from Glaxo Wellcome, Gilead Sciences and BioCryst Pharmaceuticals are moving toward Food and Drug Administration approval. But she says she is not discouraged because "there is room for other approaches to influenza antivirals. The acting mechanism in those three drugs centers on the inhibition of neuraminidase, a surface antigen on the influenza virus. The neuraminidase is a very plastic molecule...During in vitro cell culture studies, the Glaxo drug showed that it generates resistant strains. It is likely that if the drug is given to large numbers of the population, resistance will develop in vivo as well." That's why Dr. Bucher is more concerned about the cost of producing her peptide, and she has turned her sights to developing a non-amino acid—a synthetic analogue—that would be cheaper to make and more stable to use. "Peptide 6 will be administered by aerosol or with an inhaling device," she predicts, "because the flu affects the respiratory tract. Who knows, it might work best in combination with the new neuraminidase inhibitors!"

*Ed. Note: The FDA rejected approval of the Glaxo Wellcome drug, Relenza, at the end of February.*



## **Dose of Ethics** *(continued from page 2)*

In the year 2002, the ritual may have a deeper meaning for the fledgling physicians who will make up the first New York Medical College class to be exposed to all four years of the university's new and expanded program in medical ethics. The individual responsible for this



*Daniel P. Sulmasy, O.F.M., M.D., Ph.D.*

examination of the ethical, social and philosophical issues regarding professional conduct in medicine is a preeminent scholar in the field. He also happens to be a Franciscan friar and a physician whose young age and appearance belie his experience and study of ethical behavior. He is Daniel P. Sulmasy, O.F.M., M.D., Ph.D., director of the Institute for Bioethics at New York Medical College; and chair, John J. Conley Department of Ethics and the Sisters of Charity Chair in Ethics at Saint Vincents Hospital and Medical Center in New York City.

Dr. Sulmasy was hand picked for the Saint Vincents posts by Karl P. Adler, M.D., president of the hospital, an academic medical center of the College. Dr. Adler also is former dean of the School

of Medicine at the College. He explains, "There is probably no time in the history of medicine in which competition and the challenges of ethical issues in health care have been more pressing than they are today. Recruiting Dr. Sulmasy, with his nationally recognized expertise in ethics, will broaden and enrich the education of our students, residents and practicing physicians as well as the entire hospital/university community. As a Franciscan friar, an accomplished academician and practicing internist, Dan Sulmasy is uniquely qualified to lead the Saint Vincents and New York Medical College initiative in medical ethics."

### **Right credentials**

Before joining both faculties in July, Dr. Sulmasy pursued his research interests (end-of-life decision making, ethics education and cost-containment in medicine) during the seven years he spent at Georgetown University. An associate professor of medicine there, he most recently was director of its Center for Clinical Bioethics and senior research scholar of the Kennedy Institute of Ethics. As a Soros Faculty Scholar of the Project on Death in America, he has authored books and numerous articles that have appeared in medical, philosophical and theological journals across the nation.

"At Georgetown, we started trying to do something similar to this," Dr. Sulmasy advises. "But here at the College, I now have the opportunity to shape a program without the baggage that usually comes with a more established

program. Last year there were students here who went to the Curriculum Committee and asked for a real course in ethics. We see raw naked enthusiasm in this...But I can't do it all myself, so there are faculty members who will help me implement the program." These earnest educators were so interested in participating that they willingly gathered for the faculty development course Dr. Sulmasy taught at 7 o'clock in the morning on Fridays from an anatomy conference room in the Basic Sciences Building. Twenty people showed up on campus while another 12 participated at Saint Vincents by way of teleconferencing.



*John A. McClung, M.D. '75*

Five of those seminars were delivered by cardiologist John A. McClung, M.D. '75, associate professor of medicine, who since 1993 had been acting director of the ethics program then known as the Institute on Human Values in Medical Ethics. "It was a course, but not a course like this is a course," he allows. "For the first-years, the old program involved six discussions over one year, with



no exam and no continuity. Third-years were subjected to exhausting daylong discussions, which didn't accomplish what we wanted...The new program will fill an extraordinary need here, and if I had to pick one person in the country to do this, it would be Dr. Sulmasy. He is one of the foremost persons in the field and he's not 85. He can carry the ball into the next millennium."

### **National model**

In describing the course which starts with the current first-year class, Dr. Sulmasy says, "I am teaching philosophical ethics. It's compatible with Catholic teachings, but it could be taught anywhere. We hope it can and will be taught everywhere. We want to create a model."

From the end of November to early March, students attended 10 weekly 90-minute sessions on the

principles of ethics. Topics focused on controversial themes such as end-of-life care, physician assisted suicide and informed consent. Drs. Sulmasy and McClung were assisted in lecturing by Stuart Newman, Ph.D., professor of cell biology and anatomy; Matthew Pravetz, O.F.M., Ph.D. '88, assistant professor of cell biology and anatomy; Felix Wassermann, Ph.D., professor of microbiology and immunology; and Edmund D. Pellegrino, M.D., College trustee and Dr. Sulmasy's mentor at Georgetown.

Next year's curriculum will involve ethics case studies to be inserted into the microbiology, pharmacology and pathology courses at appropriate points. The strategy continues for third-years who will learn specific clinical skills that are especially appropriate for their required clinical clerkships, such

as how to obtain informed consent during surgery and how to talk about withdrawing life-sustaining treatment while a patient is on medication. The fourth-year program will continue with the current ethics elective and the possible addition of an optional research project for graduating students, Dr. Sulmasy speculates.

Meanwhile, when he's not teaching or writing, Dr. Sulmasy will continue his theoretical research into the basic science of ethics, and his empirical survey research that applies theory to practice (He was lead author on "The Accuracy of Substituted Judgments in Patients with Terminal Diagnoses" published in the *Annals of Internal Medicine* in April 1998.). Add in his duties as a general internist at Saint Vincents and you have one busy ethicist who assures his patients, "I take care of adults and I only use pills and needles." ■

## **Millennium Conference Attracts Stellar Cast**

New York Medical College will honor the advent of the millennium with an all-day symposium entitled **Medicine at the Millennium: Looking at the Past, Planning for the Future**. The event will be held on October 28th at Abigail Kirsch's Tappan Hill in Tarrytown. Scientific luminaries who have thus far accepted an invitation to participate are:

**Luc Montagnier, M.D.**, co-discoverer of the AIDS virus

**David Kessler, M.D., J.D.**, dean of the Yale School of Medicine and former commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration

**Judah M. Folkman, M.D.**, professor of pediatric surgery and cell biology at Harvard Medical School; researcher in angiogenesis

**Mary-Claire King, Ph.D.**, professor of medicine and genetics at University of Washington, Seattle, who proved the existence of the BRCA1 gene

**Kenneth I. Shine, M.D.**, president, Institute of Medicine, National Academy of Sciences; professor of medicine emeritus at UCLA School of Medicine

**Sherwin Nuland, M.D.**, professor of surgery, Yale School of Medicine and medical historian

**Gina Kolata**, award-winning science reporter, *The New York Times*





*These professors emeriti are not resting on their (considerable) laurels. Alfred M. Freedman, M.D., left, and Abraham L. Halpern, M.D., are bent on banning the death penalty. Their modus operandi is to first enlist the support of professional medical organizations.*

## Professors Emeriti Spend Their Retirement Fighting the Death Penalty

*All across America, physicians abstain from assisting in the executions of death row inmates. They neither inject lethal drugs nor train others to do so, act as witnesses or even pronounce death. Yet in a number of states, they are*

forced into a proactive role when required to certify that an inmate has the mental competency to be executed. This paradox is so aggravating to two professors emeriti of psychiatry at New York Medical College that they have turned their retirements into a crusade against the death penalty altogether. The eminent iconoclasts are Abraham L. Halpern, M.D., who served as a clinical professor from 1973 to 1992 and still teaches in the Psychiatric Residency Training Program, and Alfred M. Freedman, M.D., chairman of the Department of Psychiatry from 1960 until he retired in 1989, and first recipient of the College's Terence Cardinal Cooke Medal for Distinguished Service in Health Care (1985).

*(continued on page 12)*

## Retirement Is Not Indolence

How do you have a productive retirement? First move to a better climate, says Harold D. Itskovitz, M.D., who rubs it in when you call him on a snowy day in Valhalla at his Menlo Park, Calif., home—even if it is admittedly a half-mile from the San Andreas fault. Luxuriating in humidity-free warmth, the professor emeritus of medicine and of pharmacology is carving out a different niche in health and medical education, this time for the lay public “for whom the doctor-patient relationship is breaking down. I see the need to help the public understand all the information the media is putting out, so people can understand what they are reading. They no longer have the relationship with their doctor that they used to have,” he says.

Formerly director of the divisions of clinical pharmacology and hypertension at the College, Dr. Itskovitz was recruited in 1981 by John C. McGiff, M.D., chairman of the Department of Pharmacology. The two trained together at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania and at the Medical College of Wisconsin. This is how Dr. McGiff expresses his regard for the friend who built a national reputation from his research into the control of cardiovascular disease:

“Everybody needs a rabbi. That means teacher, you know. Fortunately, Harold was mine for 35 years.”

*(continued on page 12)*



## Retirement

(continued from page 11)



Harold D. Itskovitz, M.D.

Teaching, with no pay, is just what Dr. Itskovitz is doing at three locations—the Little House senior center in Menlo Park; Avenidas, another senior center that incorporates the Health Library program of Stanford University; and the Health and Fitness Center of the Jewish Community Center in Palo Alto, where his series of health information classes draw younger people as well as seniors. “I’m helping people to empower themselves and react better within the healthcare system,” Dr. Itskovitz assures. “I teach them how to evaluate what they are reading and seeing, especially on the Internet. They have to be careful—there’s a lot of junk on the Internet...”

“My life is not a retirement, it’s a senior beginning. To really stay young is to stay active and continue to do things that are enjoyable. Retirement is a time period but it’s not what you *have* to do. It’s just a change in what you’ve always been doing.”

## Death Penalty (continued from page 11)

As a forensic psychiatrist—a specialist who applies clinical and scientific expertise to legal issues—Dr. Halpern has long been at odds with the system, especially in his opposition to the legal insanity defense. He and Dr. Freedman authored “The Erosion of Ethics and Morality in Medicine: Physician Participation in Legal Executions in the United States” published in 1996 in the *New York Law School Law Review*. Last year, *Current Opinion in Psychiatry* ran their “A Crisis in the ethical and moral behavior of psychiatrists.” Drs. Halpern and Freedman are in good company with their stand; on Christmas Day, Pope John Paul II issued an urgent call to end the death penalty. (He reemphasized the plea on his trip to St. Louis in January.) So have the board of trustees of the American Psychiatric Association in 1967, and members of the American Bar Association, which called for a moratorium on capital punishment in 1997.

### Magnitude of issue

“Twelve states and the District of Columbia have abolished capital punishment,” states Dr. Halpern. “But that leaves 38 states and the federal government. And the kinds of crimes subject to the death penalty have been expanded. Then there is the law the federal government passed last year to cut down on appeals; only ineffectiveness of counsel is sufficient grounds and that’s hard to prove.”

“Under today’s standards,” Dr. Freedman continues, “the death penalty is cruel and unusual punishment, prohibited by the eighth amendment to the Constitution. It is barbaric and anachronistic. It can be compared to torture. Remember the

electrocution in Florida when the prisoner’s hair caught fire?... Amnesty International is investigating human rights abuses in America, particularly the issue of capital punishment.”

Passionate in his argument, Dr. Halpern insists, “Almost every other civilized nation has eliminated the death penalty. We criticize China for human rights violations. They can turn around and say, who are you to criticize us? At least China has abolished the execution of children under the age of 18 [and we haven’t]. Besides the U.S., five other nations permit the execution of individuals who committed their crimes when under the age of 18: Yemen, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Iran and Nigeria.”

### No responsibility

At the least, Drs. Halpern and Freedman would like to see doctors restricted in their treatment of prisoners on death row. “When they do, they become an agent for execution. That is not to say they can’t treat to relieve severe psychotic symptoms, and anxiety and depression, but they should not be allowed to declare an inmate fit to be executed,” Dr. Halpern says.

Their goal now is to get all medical and nursing associations to pass resolutions calling for the abolition of capital punishment. They expect that by June they will have appeared before the American Psychiatric Association (APA), the American College of Psychiatrists, the American Medical Association and the American Nursing Association. “We actually speak for the APA Lifers [psychiatrists who are life members of the APA], a large group of individuals who share our beliefs and our campaign,” says Dr. Freedman. “We are just the point men.” ■



# ALUMNI

## MINDING THE BUSINESS OF PSYCHIATRY CALLS FOR A SPLIT PERSONALITY

Douglas L. York, M.P.H. '91 plays on two teams. As executive director of the Behavioral Health Center (formerly Psychiatric Institute), he is on Westchester Medical Center's (WMC) roster, reporting to the chief operating officer. Though salaried by the medical center, he works as part of New York Medical College's (NYMC) affiliation contract with the public benefit corporation that owns the medical center. There are a few other positions he occupies at both institutions, but none so monumental as the holder of dual parking permits—the ultimate example of his ability to finesse the partners into getting what he needs.



*Douglas P. York, M.P.H. '91 has found a novel way to relax on the job at the Behavioral Health Center.*

It's a game he enjoys. "I need to have a good time at work, and I do," York admits. "This is a fantastic position to be in. Working for them both makes it easier to integrate the business interests of each. My operational and fiscal responsibilities are clearly to Mr. [Edward] Stolzenberg [WMC president and CEO], but I feel I'm an academic at heart," and he has the credentials to show it.

### Medical college

York is twice an assistant professor at NYMC—once in the Graduate School of Health Sciences, where he teaches in the health policy and management concentration and supervises one student/thesis each

year, the other in the School of Medicine as an instructor for some 30 residents in psychiatry on business issues associated with healthcare delivery systems and managed care problems. Still educating himself, York expects to finish Ph.D. studies in strategic management and economics at Pace University in New York City this Fall. His under graduate B.B.A. degree in

*(continued on page 22)*

## Health Sciences Program Earns Approval in Connecticut

The Graduate School of Health Sciences has received permission from the State of Connecticut Higher Education Board of Governors to offer programs leading to the master of science (M.S.) and master of public health (M.P.H.) degrees in the state.

Graduate courses in health services management and policy, and in public health, became available with the 1999 Spring semester at the College's affiliated Danbury Hospital in Fairfield County. Further, students will be able to take core courses there from the M.P.H. curriculum even if they are matriculating toward a degree in another program.

The curriculum was instituted in response to the needs of students residing in counties north and east of Westchester at the urging of Danbury Hospital leadership. The programs should enhance the College's relationship with the hospital, thereby giving it a greater role in residency programs and medical school rotations.



## **"New Yorkers Caring For New York" Seeks Out Minorities**

A grant of \$175,000 from the Altman Foundation will enable the College to launch "New Yorkers Caring for New York," (NYCNY) a program designed to identify, recruit and prepare promising high school and college students from diverse backgrounds for careers in medicine, science and the health professions. The foundation, which contributes to a variety of causes related to health care, education and the underserved, has been a longtime supporter of a minority scholarship fund at the College.

With a focus that begins at the high school level, NYCNY will identify the most motivated students among under-represented populations. A comprehensive program, believed to be the first of its kind in the state, will expose the young people to a variety of career choices, while financial support is offered to qualified students who subsequently are accepted to the College.

# ALUMNI

## **Education Is a Lifelong Enterprise for New York Medical College Alum<sup>3</sup>**

Brian S. Murphy's business card lists the name of his employer—Saint Vincents Hospital and Medical Center—its address, phone and fax number. Then comes his name followed by three degrees: M.D., M.P.H., M.S. (Pharm). But that's only part of the story. Dr. Murphy earned each of those degrees from the three schools at New York Medical College. The card is missing his other M.P.H. from Harvard. Nor does it preview that in the year 2000, he will complete an M.B.A. from Columbia.

Does it make you wonder what he does for a living?  
Actually, a lot.

Dr. Murphy, M.D. '90, M.P.H. '90 (general public health) and M.S. '85 (pharmacology), is an assistant professor of medicine at the College. He does research as director of the Clinical Strategies Program at Saint Vincents, where he also spends 15 percent of his time teaching residents. And he is director of clinical affairs for the Family Health Centers of the Hotel Trades Council in New York City, the managed care network where he practices general internal medicine. No wonder he goes to the gym at 5:30 in the morning even though, he confides, "it's crowded."



## Only technically finished

Although he has faced the fact that his school days will be over when he completes the Executive M.B.A. Program, they do not signal the end of his education. Dr. Murphy ultimately plans to focus on pharmaco-economics, which he defines as "the cost of developing drugs and getting them to the people who need them..."

Everything in medicine requires lifelong learning," Dr. Murphy points out. "The degrees simply allow me to do research in multiple areas."

It would seem that Dr. Murphy has always done more than one thing at a time. While he was earning his undergraduate degree in biology from NYU, he won a scholarship from the University of Iowa Writers Project and specialized in creating mysteries. He still belongs to the Mystery Writers of America, although the only whodunits he says he observes now are the "medical mysteries we encounter everyday."

After completing a residency in internal medicine at Tufts-New England Medical Center in 1994, he was the first medicine fellow at Harvard to do concurrent fellowships in general medicine and medical ethics. When he finished two years later, he found himself offered a position doing outcomes research at the prestigious Cleveland Clinic. But then the past intervened, and it was due to his own hand.

Dr. Murphy had written to Karl P. Adler, M.D., former dean of the NYMC School of Medicine, offering congratulations on Dr. Adler's new job as president of Saint Vincents. When Dr. Murphy proceeded to discuss his new job, Dr. Adler interjected about his own search to fill an outcomes research post at Saint Vincents. "Dr. Adler and I had always kept in touch,"



*Brian S. Murphy, M.D. '90, M.P.H. '90, M.S. '85, has earned a degree from each school at New York Medical College. He also has an M.P.H. from Harvard and is working on his M.B.A. at Columbia.*

Dr. Murphy said, "and I had not yet formally accepted the Cleveland Clinic job."

## Outcomes research

From his perspective, outcomes research is the development of treatment protocols for various medical conditions that are clinically effective and economical-ly efficient. The Clinical Strategies Program, for example, has been

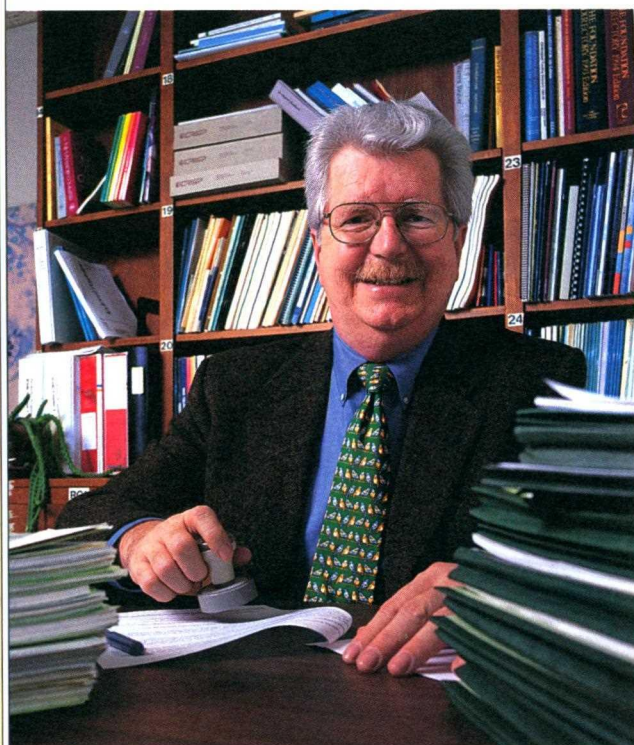
running a cost-benefit analysis on treating hepatitis C by examining a set of predictor variables. Should these patients always undergo a liver biopsy? What combinations of chemotherapy are most effective? "This kind of research involves the entire section of general internal medicine along with subspecialties in cardiology, geriatrics, allergy, rheumatology and gastroenterology. Outcomes research is a multidisciplinary science," Dr. Murphy says.

His own research is concentrated in four areas: the epidemiology of hepatitis C, which he says is four times more prevalent than AIDS; a cost-effective analysis of administering the hepatitis A vaccine versus first testing for its antibody; a clinical trial of a new anti-obesity drug for Hoffmann-LaRoche; and a cost utilization study of depression in patients who spend a great deal of money on health care.

If all that amounts to a full plate, he is asked, why does he need the M.B.A.? "You just see

more generalists being more versatile in the work they do," Dr. Murphy replies. "You just do it. It's not enough just to see patients anymore. Medicine is a business now—it always was—but there are increasing market pressures in medicine, and I think it's important for a physician to have business training and an appreciation for business issues. It is just another way to make sure quality of care is not compromised." ■





# Research Administration Lays Down the Benevolent Law for Medical Science

*Clayton J. Heydorn always manages to keep his head above the mountain of paperwork that comes with the territory as director, human subjects administration.*

Butter was bad, now margarine is worse. Estrogen helps the heart and bones, but puts women at greater risk for breast cancer. Vexing as these contradictions may be, they are the stuff of clinical research, revelations from controlled clinical trials that compare an experimental group to a comparison group. When studies require a large subject base, such as those often sponsored by the National Institutes of Health and pharmaceutical companies, they take the form of multi-center trials that are held simultaneously at multiple sites across the country. The new Lyme disease vaccines, for instance, were tested by the Division of Infectious Diseases at New York Medical College and Westchester Medical Center along with a number of other academic medical centers located where the infection is endemic. It is easy to imagine how difficult it must be to keep pace with the rules and regu-

lations that envelop the complexities of government regulated research, but for the aptly titled Office of Research Administration, it is business as usual. The "proprieters" are Associate Dean Catharine Crea, and Clayton J. Heydorn, director, human subjects administration.

## Protecting volunteers

For nearly 13 years, Heydorn has been the administrator for the committee that safeguards the volunteers who take an experimental drug or test a new vaccine or device, first by subjecting the proposed research to stringent review, and second by ensuring that subjects are fully aware of the risks involved. The Committee for Protection of Human Subjects is the College's Institutional Review Board (IRB), a panel of 20 physicians, scientists and lay members who meet twice a month to review and pass on research proposals. Subject to their scrutiny are a study protocol from the

sponsor or investigator, an Application to Conduct Research form, a summary describing the study and a consent form. It must all meet Heydorn's approval before getting on the IRB agenda.

When a pharmaceutical company sponsors a clinical trial, Heydorn will negotiate a contract that includes fees, publication rights, publicity and indemnification clauses. Funds received from commercial sponsors cover costs for patient care, salaries of research nurses and hospital charges as well as overhead for the College.

While a trial is proceeding, "there is a lot of paper coming in. The detail is tremendous," Heydorn acknowledges. With 400 ongoing multi-center studies and some 160 new ones coming in each year from principal investigators at Westchester Medical Center, Metropolitan Hospital Center and



Saint Agnes Hospital, the job is hectic, something that is reflected by his desk with an overflowing in-bin and piled high with bulging files. He has one assistant, Robin Hoyt, who will help in absorbing the 275 ongoing studies from affiliated Saint Vincents Hospital and Medical Center and Our Lady of Mercy Medical Center, which are slated to be added this year when the hospitals come under the umbrella of the College IRB.

### No pushover

Notwithstanding his relaxed and avuncular demeanor, Heydorn maintains a firm grasp of a study from beginning to end. "After the initial approval," he advises, "any change in the protocol or the consent form must be approved by the IRB—just one of many requirements of federal regulations. The FDA [Food and Drug Administration] monitors the drug company and the IRB, so there is strong pressure to comply. By the way, every five years or so the FDA makes a site visit with only a few days notice. I think we're about due."

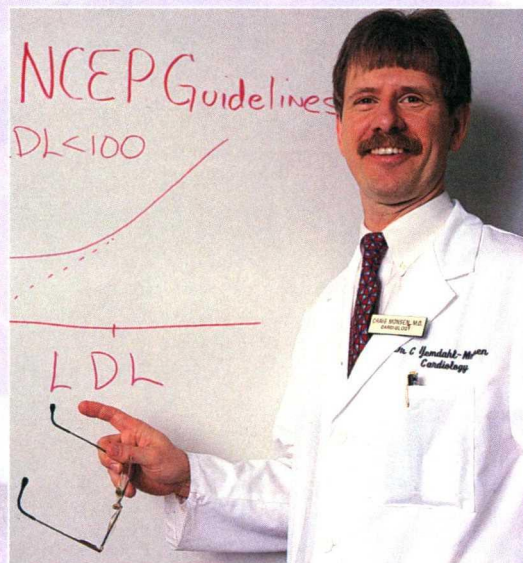
Heydorn receives reports from sponsors and investigators of life-threatening, unexpected or serious events during the course of a clinical trial that must be reported to the IRB. And as one would expect, there are required progress reports to monitor from the principal investigators. If all this makes Heydorn, the gatekeeper of clinical research, feel a special burden of responsibility, he doesn't show it—as long as he successfully coaxes his research colleagues into playing by the same rules he does. ■

## A Multi-Center Trial Asks, Can a Very Low Cholesterol Halt Heart Disease?

Craig Monsen, M.D., is looking for 50 to 100 people between the ages of 35 and 75 who have coronary artery disease, an LDL cholesterol higher than 130, are not in treatment or are willing to stop what they are taking, for a five-year commitment to Lipitor (atorvastatin) manufactured by Parke-Davis and marketed by Pfizer.

Dr. Monsen, who is associate professor of clinical medicine at the College and an interventional cardiologist at Westchester Medical Center, is principal investigator (PI) here for the 90-site multicenter trial titled "Effect of LDL-Cholesterol Lowering Beyond Currently Recommended Minimum Targets on Coronary Heart Disease (CHD) Recurrence in Patients With Pre-existing CHD."

It is commonly referred to as the TNT (Treating To New Targets) Trial.



*Craig Monsen, M.D., is running the multi-center trial of the drug Lipitor at Westchester Medical Center.*

"This is a Phase IV [post-marketing] trial to relabel or find another indication for the drug," Dr. Monsen states. The question is whether reducing LDL cholesterol well below current guidelines will be of benefit after five years. No one will get a placebo, he explains, because "it would be unethical to give nothing when we know lowering cholesterol is of benefit in this group of patients. [There are recent data, however, suggesting that lowering LDL aggressively may result in other problems such as hemorrhagic stroke.] Everybody will initially get a dose of 10 milligrams to show their cholesterol can be properly controlled. Once we know that they will be randomly assigned and blinded—to me too—to a 10- or an 80-milligram dose...A safety committee will continually monitor the trial to look for adverse effects of the medication."

While a PI often receives no remuneration for these kinds of studies, he says, there are other rewards: "It can be exciting to be involved in discovering new things and having new therapies and technology available for my patients. You are also fulfilling one of the goals of the academic medical center by supporting research. My greatest personal gratification comes from using the new technology that is not generally available to other physicians."



# ALUMNI

## Microbiology Alumna Prefers Bacteria To Viruses

Her vantage point was Punta Arenas, “the end of the world” as she calls her hometown in southern Chile. Longing to head north, Maria-Elena Fernandez-Beros, Ph.D. '89, thought the Graduate School of Basic Medical Sciences in Valhalla would be a perfect place to earn a doctoral degree in microbiology, something not available in her homeland. Even after graduation, she stayed six more years doing research and teaching before moving on in 1995 to one of the premier scientific organizations in the nation: the Skirball Institute of Bimolecular



*In her effort to subclone the RepC gene, Maria-Elena Fernandez-Beros, Ph.D. '89, manipulates plasmid DNA from Staphylococcus aureus, the major cause of hospital-acquired infections.*

Medicine of the NYU School of Medicine, where some 40 principal investigators bask in 60,000 sq. ft. of laboratory space. There in the lab of Richard Novick, M.D., she got hooked on *Staphylococcus aureus*, best known as the perpetrator of septicemia, bacterial pneumonia and toxic shock syndrome, which Dr. Novick was among the first to diagnose. “There are plenty of people working with AIDS and viruses,” says Dr. Fernandez. “Bacteria really have been neglected. So many are resistant to antibiotics that we need to develop new drugs that are effective.”

Dr. Fernandez had discovered New York Medical College via the it's-a-small-world route; her former classmate, who was studying for his Ph.D. at SUNY-Buffalo, had a wife whose friend was Maria Elena Agüero-Rosenfeld, M.D., now an associate professor of pathology, microbiology and immunology, and medicine at the College. Her research into Lyme disease and ehrlichiosis have brought her increasing renown. At the time Dr. Fernandez was doing her doctoral thesis research, Dr. Agüero was a post-doc with a National Institutes of Health Fogarty International Fellowship, and both were working in the



laboratory of Felipe Cabello, Ph.D., professor of microbiology and immunology.

### Praise worthy

"I found Dr. Fernandez to be a very resourceful, hardworking and creative student," says Dr. Cabello. "As a result of the work in my laboratory she was an author in eight published manuscripts and three reviews. This important scientific output is a reflection of her high ability as an experimentalist and scientist." She should also be considered quite courageous, because when she arrived on the Valhalla campus, sight unseen in 1982, she could read English but could not speak it. "I remember in the medical micro class I hardly understood a word, but I could read the book," she recalls. "Dr. Cabello was very challenging and demanding. It was a good experience to work with him."

As a post-doc here, she first studied the relationship of the enzyme livercortisol dihydrogenase to open angle glaucoma in a biochemistry and molecular biology lab while reporting to Louis Southren, M.D., professor of medicine. After two years, she joined the team of Yuk-Ching Tse-Dinh, Ph.D., professor of biochemistry and molecular biology, in researching the properties of vaccinia DNA topoisomerase, an enzyme necessary for cell survival. That is why the enzyme is a chronic target in testing antibiotics and in discovering new treatments to kill cancer cells.

It was Dr. Cabello who ultimately contacted Dr. Novick at the Skirball Institute when Dr. Fernandez decided it was time to

## Dr. Ross Recognized for Distinguished Research



*The 1998 Dean's Distinguished Research Award went to William N. Ross, Ph.D., left, professor of physiology, for his explorations into the role of dendrites, or nerve cell branches, in brain function. Ralph A. O'Connell, M.D., provost and dean of the School of Medicine, presented Dr. Ross with a plaque and a \$5,000 honorarium following a lecture by the scientist in January. (Photo by Jerry Reinlieb)*

move on. Dr. Novick needed an assistant for his research into nosocomial (hospital acquired) infections; Dr. Fernandez accepted the challenge. "Hospitals are a breeding ground for bacterial infections," she explains. "Catheters become contaminated and the use of antibiotics makes the bacteria resistant. Normal healthy individuals aren't affected, but people with compromised immune systems are...Staph infections have been studied for years and the genome has been sequenced, but that doesn't tell us what each gene does," something a researcher needs to know.

### A key gene

In her quest to understand how bacteria spread antibiotic resistance, Dr. Fernandez has been probing plasmid replication in *S. aureus* by generating mutants of the RepC gene—a protein that initiates the replication of the plasmid, a little piece of DNA that can reproduce independently from chromosomal DNA. But as her tenure at Skirball winds down, Dr. Fernandez may have to branch out as she seeks "the best opportunity in anything related to pathogens. I would prefer to stay in New York though," she says. "After you live in the New York area, everything else is a village." ■





*Thirteen research scientists at the neighboring American Health Foundation hold faculty appointments at the College. They include, from left seated, Drs. Anthony P. Albino, John P. Richie and Karam El-Bayoumy. Standing are Drs. C. Clifford Conaway, Emerich S. Fiala, Gordon C. Hard, John H. Weisburger, Leonard A. Cohen, Fung-Lung Chung and Michael Iatropoulos.*

# American Health Foundation Is Bent on Preventing Cancer and Heart Disease

Before the word health proliferated into the name of every managed care company in the country, the American Health Foundation (AHF) was hard at work in its resolve to reduce the incidence of avoidable chronic disease through preventive medicine. Founded in 1969, it is one of 58 cancer centers nationwide funded by the National Cancer Institute, and the only one exclusively dedicated to averting cancer (and heart disease) through epidemiology, research and health promotion. All the science is conducted in a handsome field-

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**Researchers look  
to nutrition and  
the environment  
to mitigate errors  
of nature.**

---

stone structure at the southwest corner of the Valhalla campus shared by New York Medical College and Westchester Medical Center, where the foundation's closest neighbors are a youth detention facility, a fire-training center and the county morgue. Actually, without knowing its *raison d'être*, passersby conjure up myriad hypotheses about what goes on in the building—named, for a donor, the Naylor Dana Institute for Disease Prevention. But its purpose is clear to the 10 Ph.D. candidates from the Graduate School of Basic Medical Sciences who since 1994 have



spent part of their studies in the laboratories of 13 AHF scientists who also hold faculty appointments at the College. The researchers (see below) have an interesting mix of specialties.

### Modernizing their approach

Around the time that founder and President Ernst L. Wynder, M.D., was cutting back on his hours, Anthony P. Albino, Ph.D., (pronounced AlBEno) joined the foundation as director of research with a mandate to "introduce molecular biology as a fundamental tool here," he says. Explains Dr. Albino of the AHF mission, "The environment has a direct role in two-thirds of all cancers. You only have to look at the relationship between smoking and lung cancer, or the sun and skin cancer. In addition, the role of heredity impacts all cancers; for example, most people who smoke do not

get lung cancer. Then you factor in the influence of nutrition, which clearly affects breast and colon cancers and probably has some effect on most, if not all, cancers...

"Americans want to know what they can do in their everyday lives to prevent cancer—and heart disease. We know that dietary supplements and proper nutrition can play a role. You know, the American Health Foundation has pioneered research into diet and nutrition *and* genetics." On the heart side, the organization has conducted nutritional intervention studies on the impact of vitamins, soy and omega 3 and 6 fatty acids. And Dr. Albino points to their WINS trial—the Women's Intervention Nutrition Study—where 2,500 women across the nation will be assessed for using a low fat diet to prevent the recurrence of breast cancer. As a

further sampling of their interests he mentions the Child Health Center started by the foundation, which is dedicated to educating children into adopting lifelong attitudes toward a healthy lifestyle. "Our motto," says Dr. Albino, "is to have people die young as late in life as possible, and to find ways to effect that by having a disease-free body..."

"To continue our work, we would like to develop a deeper relationship with both the basic scientists and clinicians at New York Medical College. We are looking for more ways to be involved... We see great potential for the development together of novel approaches for the prevention and treatment of cancer, and for becoming a national center for the implementation of cancer prevention trials using chemopreventive agents. It could be a very productive synergy." ■

### American Health Foundation scientists with faculty appointments at New York Medical College

- Anthony P. Albino, Ph.D., adjunct professor, Dermatology
- Leonard A. Cohen, Ph.D., adjunct professor, Community and Preventive Medicine, and distinguished lecturer, Graduate School of Health Sciences
- C. Clifford Conaway, Ph.D., visiting lecturer, Graduate School of Health Sciences
- Fung-Lung Chung, Ph.D., adjunct professor, Pathology
- Karam El-Bayoumy, Ph.D., adjunct professor, Pathology
- Emerich S. Fiala, Ph.D., research associate professor, Pharmacology
- Gordon C. Hard, B.V.Sc., Ph.D., D.Sc., adjunct research professor, Pathology
- Michael Iatropoulos, M.D., professor, Pathology
- Bandaru S. Reddy, D.V.M., research professor, Microbiology and Immunology
- John P. Richie, Ph.D., associate research professor, Pathology
- John H. Weisburger, Ph.D., research professor, Pathology
- Christine Williams, M.D., clinical professor, Pediatrics
- Gary Williams, M.D., research professor, Pathology



# **NYMC Joins to Make State into Biotech Leader**

The College is a founding partner of the Academic Medicine Development Company (AMDeC), a consortium comprising 25 of New York's leading medical schools, academic medical centers and research institutions. AMDeC's goal is to expand the state's pivotal role in biomedical research and technology by securing additional federal grants, and luring the world's top researchers and new jobs to New York.

The first cooperative venture was made public last Fall when Mayor Rudy Giuliani announced the investment by the City of New York of up to \$12 million in the New York Cancer Project, the largest medical research study of its kind ever attempted in the U.S. The trial promises to advance understanding of the genetic and environmental causes of cancer, leading to improved diagnostic tools and treatments.

## **Split Personality**

*(continued from page 13)*

financial management and human resources development from Pace preceded the M.P.H. in health policy and management at the College.

At the medical center, York also treads in two tracks. He is responsible to the Westchester County Healthcare Corporation for overall financial, managerial and regulatory affairs of behavioral and correctional health services at its entities—the main WMC hospital and the adjacent Behavioral Health Center. Second, he is head administrator at the latter, a 100-bed psychiatric hospital with community-based clinics and mobile crisis services for adults, adolescents and children.

### **Sickest patients**

"My biggest problem in the job is not having enough time to do all the things I want to do," York offers. "I have the utmost support from both institutions because there is such a commitment for behavioral health services. We're focusing on bringing them up to the same tertiary level of care that the medical center provides. Since the sickest people come to WMC, the sickest psychiatric patients should come here, too.

Biopsychosocial integration is our treatment policy." By that he means "early behavioral health interventions lead to documented improved outcomes"—or with the jargon stripped away—treating the psychiatric symptoms of patients with cancer, stroke and heart disease leads to quicker recoveries and better health. "This more contemporary approach complements the Behavioral Health Center's 70-year history of providing traditional mental health services," he explains.

"We have the only freestanding psychiatric emergency room in Westchester County," York continues, "and are privileged to be the anchor hospital for the Westchester Behavioral Health Network." There are no private hospitals in this consortium of residential, hospital-based and community-based agencies that include Sound Shore Medical Center of Westchester in New Rochelle, St. Joseph's Hospital in Yonkers, Saint Vincent's Westchester in Harrison, Westchester Jewish Community Services, Family Services of Westchester and the Mental Health Association of Westchester, among others.

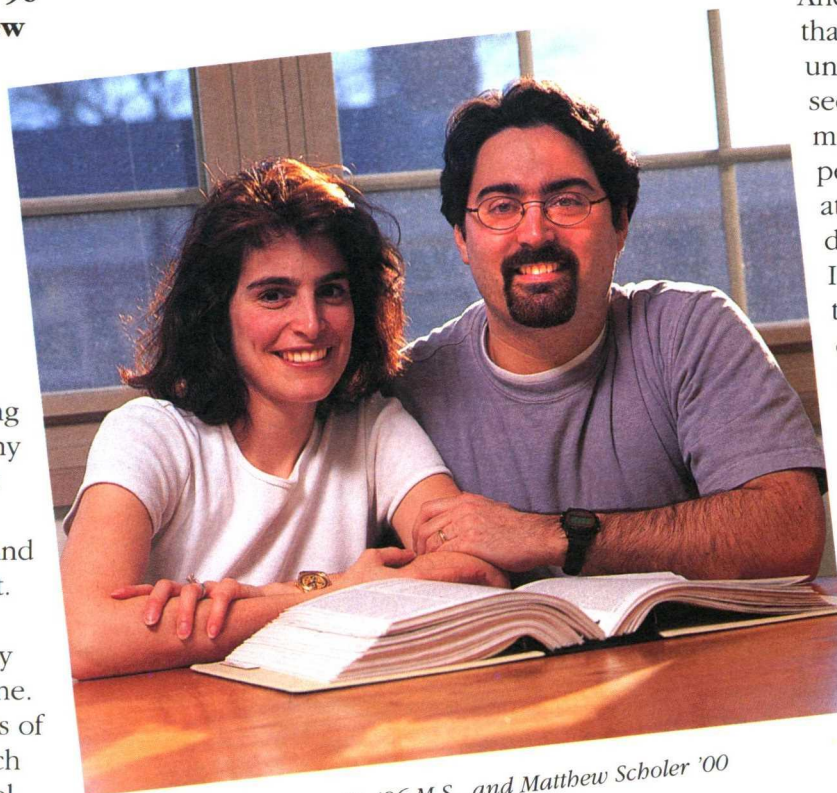
York is equally proud of WMC's emergency and mobile crisis services, which often are summoned to respond to calls from police, schools and community agencies. He also administers a large outpatient program. There is one aspect to the job, however, that does not thrill him: dealing with some managed care organizations. "These companies still don't generally have an understanding of the chronic and persistently mentally ill and their needs. We must achieve a balance between treating them properly and getting our services paid for... Mental health benefits are usually the first to be reduced or cut out, and some of our patients simply can't be treated on an outpatient basis. They need a structured setting to enable them to relearn basic skills, but nobody wants to pay for that extensive period of time," says York, the empathetic executive who decided to mind the business of medicine on the psychiatric side just so he could be more involved with patient care. ■



# Choosing a Specialty and Other Ways to Earn a Living

*Academic medicine and private practice are the mainstream goals of medical students. Here are some fledgling doctors with different aspirations, and in the case of a married couple in their third year, an admission that they really don't know what they want to do.*

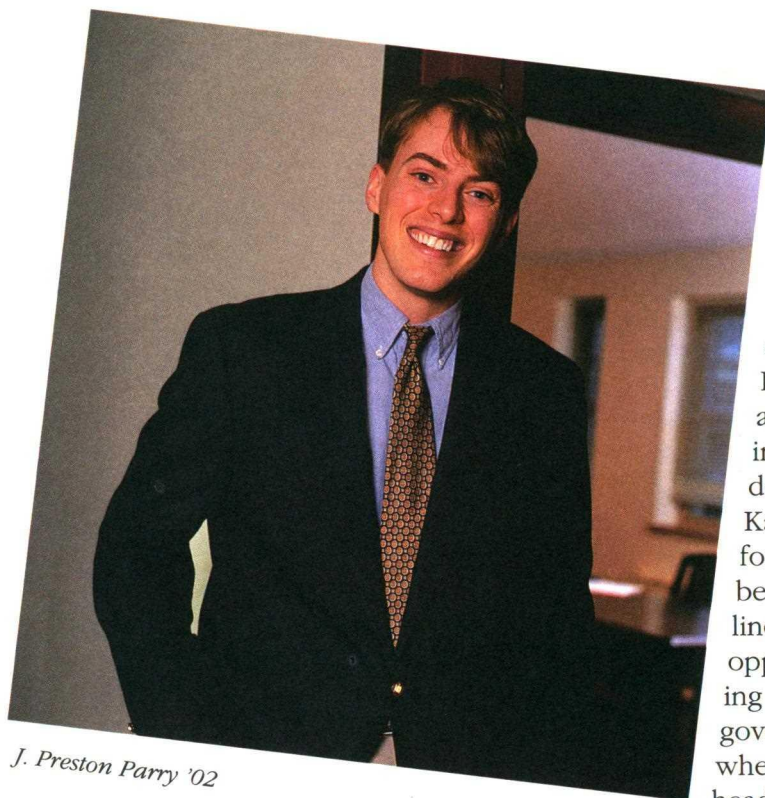
**Andrea Cuomo Scholer '00, '96**  
**M.S.** in physiology and **Matthew Scholer '00**, who only has to defend his thesis to earn his Ph.D. in pharmacology, will receive their medical school diplomas next May. They met here in 1993 and married last June. Without accounting for his research interests, Matthew still has a problem in deciding on a specialty: "It's not that nothing interests me. Everything interests me...I can't think of any other profession where you get to try everything before you decide what you want to do. And I'm taking full advantage of that. Of course I have to consider something with a long residency versus something just to get done. I will have completed four years of undergrad, four years of research and four years of medical school. It's easy to toss away three or four years of your life at a time. We are just anxious to get out and start practicing."



*Andrea Cuomo Scholer '00, '96 M.S., and Matthew Scholer '00*

Andrea's view is that "I want to wait until the end to see what I miss most. Different personalities are attracted to different fields. I am leaning toward medicine because I like working with patients." At least one thing is clear, Matthew admits: "Even if we don't know what we want to do, we do know where we want to do it. We have family in Boston, New York and North Carolina."





*J. Preston Parry '02*

Soft-spoken **J. Preston Parry '02** loves infectious diseases. That's why he's headed for the Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS), a two-year post-graduate program of service and on-the-job training for health professionals interested in the practice of epidemiology. Headquartered at the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta, EIS officers play a major role in the implementation of its mission of preventing disease and injury and promoting health lifestyles. Depending on qualifications and experience, salaries range from \$27,000 to \$58,000.

Parry hopes that his current training and previous experiences will expedite his acceptance into the program. He has already earned an M.P.H. in sociomedical sciences from Columbia University, where he also completed most of the requirements for the M.P.H. program in epidemiology. He can thank his

Columbia mentors Patrick Moore, M.D., M.P.H., and his wife, Yuan Chang, M.D., co-discoverers of the HHV-8 virus that appears to be involved in the development of Kaposi's sarcoma, for his hunger to be on the front lines. "There is an opportunity working with the government to see where things are headed. You can make a difference

before health problems become uncontrollable because you get the information first," he says.



### **Jeanne Palmer '01**

doesn't believe her desire to donate one month of every year to medical missionary work is an idealistic urge. "When I was living in New Brunswick [New Jersey] and attending Rutgers, I worked on renal, respiratory and monitoring units at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital where there were a lot of HIV patients, suicide risks and violent people. I've been exposed to the underserved before who really need help," she says.

"Last summer I did an internship at an AIDS center at the Terence Cardinal Cook Healthcare Center. I don't know what draws me to them. It's just something I've always wanted to do." That's why she chose to do her physical diagnosis (PD) rotation this year at Phoenix House, a drug rehabilitation center in Queens. Palmer will specialize in internal medicine and then take a fellowship in infectious diseases.

"I plan to take an elective in Scotland to develop my PD skills, where they teach it particularly well," she explains. "Because where I want to go I won't have lab tests to back me up." And she mentions places like Thailand,



*Jeanne Palmer '01*

Russia, Honduras and Africa, especially Gabon, where Dr. Albert Schweitzer opened a hospital in Lambarene, then a province of French Equatorial Africa, in 1913.



**Mill Etienne '02** is the first in his family to become a doctor. Emigrating from Haiti at the age of five, he majored in psychology

their senior year. Last summer he taught chemistry and physics; this year's course, "Genesis of a Serial Killer," will be based on his own research. Etienne also teaches

physics in the New York Medical College Science and Technology Entry Program for pre-college students.

Would it beg the question to ask Etienne, if he succeeds in planting one foot in medicine and the other in law, where his heart would really lie?

"If I could only be one thing, it would be an M.D.," he responds. "I have a fascination with the law, but medicine is the meat and potatoes."



P.S. Rumor has it that a second-year is interested in working for NASA, but when we tried to get an interview, he claimed it was only a passing fancy. We'll see. ■



*Mill Etienne '02*

and biology for his undergraduate degree from Yale. At the time, he was the only pre-med student who also took legal classes at the law school, where the professors encouraged him to eventually apply. And so he will after he earns his medical degree.

"I want to be able to affect policy in medicine," Etienne explains. "A law degree will enable me to do that. A lawyer with a medical background can also be a real advocate for patients." Meanwhile, in what little spare time he has over the summer, Etienne will again teach high school students at Wellsley College who join the advanced placement program in

## AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION TAPS 3 BASIC SCIENCE RESEARCHERS

The American Heart Association (AHA) is composed of 13 scientific councils; 3 of them have awarded leadership posts to faculty members of the Graduate School of Basic Medical Sciences who are doing cardiovascular-related research.

Thomas H. Hintze, Ph.D. '80, professor of physiology and currently vice chairman of the AHA Council on Circulation, will become chairman of the Council on Basic Cardiovascular Sciences on July 1. Alberto Nasjletti, M.D., professor of pharmacology, began his term as vice chairman of the Council for High Blood Pressure Research in November. And Michael S. Wolin, Ph.D., professor of physiology, will begin his term as vice chairman of the Council on Cardiopulmonary and Critical Care July 1.

The scientists will serve on national and local research committees that guide the activities of more than 30,000 AHA members and determine the allocation of some \$94 million in research support each year.



## Four New Professors Emeriti

The Board of Trustees has approved nominations by colleagues and department chairmen of four retiring faculty members to the rank of professor emeritus. They are:

- ❖ Norman B. Ackerman, M.D., Department of Surgery. He joined the College in 1982 and was chief of surgery at Metropolitan Hospital Center until 1991.
- ❖ Giancarlo Guideri, Ph.D. '69, Department of Pharmacology. He began his association in 1962 as a lab technician, earned his Ph.D., and then taught pharmacology to second-year medical students, 10 years as course director.
- ❖ Phyllis Harrison-Ross, M.D., Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences. She made significant contributions to mental health services in New York City over 25 years in the Department of Psychiatry at Metropolitan Hospital Center.
- ❖ Eugene P. Wenk, Ph.D. '72, Department of Cell Biology and Anatomy. He started as a research associate in the Department of Medicine in 1953, finally guiding 20 classes of first-year medical students through gross anatomy. (see Faculty, In Memoriam, inside back cover)

## UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP APPEAL GETS A MAKEOVER

A new and improved University Scholarship Appeal in January raised nearly \$325,000, a 20 percent increase over last year. The Board of Trustees has sponsored the annual event to raise funds for scholarship assistance since 1985. Since that time, the drive has raised more than \$3 million and benefited nearly 400 students.

In a departure from years of Waldorf-Astoria galas, the event was held for the first time on

campus in the lobby of the Basic Sciences Building. The space was transformed for the occasion into a glittering and decorated banquet room with candles, crystal and silver. Another first was the creation of a special donor category for faculty and staff. To ensure proper recognition of the College's family of donors, a donor recognition plaque listing the names of all contributors to the 1998-1999 appeal was unveiled on a wall in the lobby. ■



*The scholarship fund earned \$320,000 after members of the Board of Trustees gathered in the Basic Sciences Building in January. They celebrated a successful trustees' scholarship appeal to which all donors were invited. From left are Col. Melvin D. Freeman, Rev. Msgr. Harry C. Barrett, D.Min., M.P.H., College president; Ralph A. O'Connell, M.D., provost and dean of the School of Medicine; Ronald F. Poe, William M. Mooney, Philip A. Marraccini, M.D. '50, and Joseph Giamelli. (Photo by Steve Napolitano)*



# President's Advisory Council Offers National Perspective

Since its founding three years ago, the President's National Advisory Council has offered a perspective of the university's most accomplished alumni and others who represent leading medical and health institutions across the country.

According to Rev. Msgr. Harry C. Barrett, D.Min., M.P.H., "The combined wisdom of these individuals, culled from their impressive experience and the networks in which they practice is a special resource to me as the College moves forward. Their various abilities and backgrounds, coupled with their vested interest in the College and its success, is of incomparable value and we draw on their talents throughout the year."



Front row, from left to right: Dr. Anita Stiles Curran-Smith, Helen Darling, Drs. Kathleen Nelson, Mark Rosenblum, Ernest Matthews and Charles Aswad. Back row, from left to right: Drs. Neil Kurtzman, Noel Testa, Rev. Msgr. Harry Barrett, Drs. Lester Borden and John Weg. Photo by Robert Floyd

In its third annual meeting last November, the group considered some new subjects: Health outcomes and assessment and the College's role, opportunities and initiatives in promoting community health; integrating clinical and basic research, including best practices and funding sources employed by other leading institutions; and graduate medical education and the optimum resident community for the College's affiliate hospitals.

(continued on page 29)

## MEDICINE

### Inroads: Making Universal Care a Reality

When the state of Oregon launched one of the country's first programs to provide health care to the uninsured in 1990, many denounced the plan as a dangerous attempt to ration medical treatment. But as the Oregon Health Plan nears the end of its first decade, it has won the approval of Oregonians, the *New England Journal of Medicine* and—Joseph Intile, M.D. '57, who became its medical director in 1997.

According to a recent editorial in *The Oregonian*, "...The Oregon Health Plan's basic approach of limiting care instead of limiting people who can get care is sound. The percentage of insured Oregonians has fallen to 11 percent against a national average of 14 or 16 percent. Doctors, hospitals, and health plans, despite grumbling, support the plan. Hospital charity care has dropped by 30 percent. And in 1996, Oregon voters passed a new tax specifically to support the plan..."



Joseph Intile, M.D. '57, medical director, Oregon Health Plan

The heart of the plan is a "prioritized list" of more than 700 diagnoses and treatments, 514 of which are currently covered. "The list is one of the main reasons the Oregon Health Plan has become so successful," says Dr. Intile. "It is a well thought-out and prudent prioritization of medical and surgical conditions. It also covers many conditions begging for preventive measures, such as tobacco cessation and treatment for drug and alcohol abuse, and all recognized diagnostic procedures for undiagnosed conditions that need to be defined. With basically the same number of dollars, we have been able to include approximately 100,000 more people under health insurance coverage and provide care

(continued on page 30)

ALUMNI NEWS



## Alumni Association Board of Governors

### Officers

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#### President-Elect

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#### Vice President

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Jacqueline L. Rookwood, M.D. '93

Mario F. Tagliagambe, Jr. M.D. '84

William Zarowitz, M.D. '78

## Morrison Speaks on Complementary Medicine

Students crowded into the Learning Center last November to hear Francine Morrison, M.D. '86, discuss her experiences learning and practicing complementary medicine. The presentation was part of an ongoing series sponsored by the Student National Medical Association, the national student organization focused on the needs and concerns of medical students of color.

Dr. Morrison, a psychiatrist in the male admission unit at East Louisiana Mental Health System, Jackson Division, and psychiatric director of Pathfinders Healthcare, became interested in nontraditional medicine during her residency, when an AIDS patient she was treating for depression became very ill. "I was motivated by a feeling of inadequacy," she recalls. She drew on training she had received in hypnotherapy at the College to help her patient deal with anxiety. The experience kindled an interest in learning more; she began studying massage, pressure-point and herbal therapy.

Dr. Morrison advocates combining the best of traditional and alternative, or complementary, medical

techniques. "Technological advances have made the West unparalleled in diagnosis," she notes, "but Eastern medicine excels in individualized treatment." Because complementary medicine is not approved for use in psychiatry, Dr. Morrison offers her therapy as a separate practice to nonpsychiatric patients, making house calls and seeing patients in her home. Through her success with shiatsu massage, acupressure, reiki (a form of energy treatment) and herbal therapy, she has become a believer in the benefits of alternative medicine, particularly for pain relief. "Techniques like acupuncture and shiatsu can be effective treatments. Physicians who are familiar with these options can make informed referrals and present their patients a variety of choices," she says.

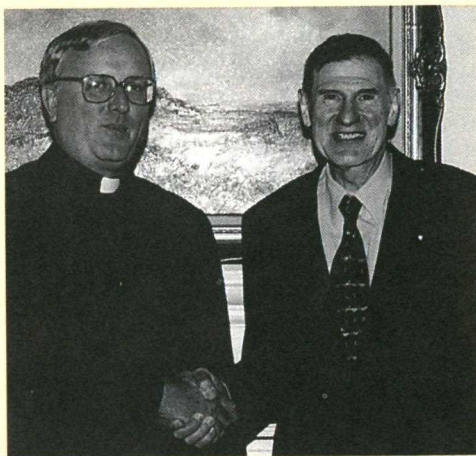
Dr. Morrison also believes knowing about complementary techniques can help a physician offer better care. "A 1997 Harvard study found that alternative medicine—herbs, massage, chiropractic and acupuncture—is a 27 to 34 billion dollar industry in America," she says. This suggests that many patients may well be taking some form of alternative treatment, often without their doctor knowing. "Physicians who are aware of complementary therapies will be more likely to anticipate conflicts between traditional and nontraditional methods," she claims. "For example, patients who are taking anticoagulant drugs should be cautious about adding garlic, a natural anticoagulant, to their diet." ■



Francine Morrison, M.D. '86, shared her experience in complementary medicine with College students.

## MEDICINE

## Veterans' Legacy: Million Dollar Gift for School of Medicine



Kirk Kazarian, M.D. '61, professor of surgery and president of the foundation, presented a check to NYMC President and CEO Rev. Msgr. Harry C. Barrett, D.Min., M.P.H.

The Metropolitan Unit Foundation, a philanthropy organized in 1917 to care for the sick and wounded of the American armed forces fighting World War I in France, recently made a gift of more than \$1 million to the College. The donation, which also marks the dissolution of the foundation, will be used for student scholarships,

research and other College objectives that are consistent with the foundation's aims. A luncheon last fall commemorated the group's efforts.

The foundation's gift is the legacy of a group of alumni and faculty physicians and nurses at affiliated Metropolitan Hospital Center in New York City. They formed the volunteer Metropolitan Unit by soliciting small contributions from faculty, staff, patients and friends to equip Base Hospital 48, as the Metropolitan Unit in France was known. After the war ended, money left

over was maintained in a fund to support any future wartime emergencies.

Since incorporation in the 1950s, all foundation members and directors have been physicians who either were faculty or graduates of the College. Alumni members of the former foundation's board of directors include William F. Flynn, M.D. '60; Kirk K. Kazarian, M.D. '61, who served most recently as president; William D. Mahoney, M.D. '59; E. Edward Napp, M.D. '33; Dominick Pasquale, M.D. '61; and Werner J. Roeder, M.D. '65. ■



The Council's founding membership of 12 New York Medical College alumni has grown to 16 and now includes non-alumni members as well.

### President's National Advisory Council

**Charles N. Aswad, M.D. '57**

Executive Vice President  
Medical Society of the State of New York

**Lester S. Borden, M.D. '69**

Head, Section of Adult Reconstructive Surgery  
Cleveland Clinic Foundation

**James W. Curran, M.D.**

Dean, Rollins School of Public Health  
Emory University

**Anita Stiles Curran-Smith, M.D. '55**

Retired; former Associate Dean for Community Health  
Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

**Helen Darling**

Practice Leader, Group Benefits and Healthcare  
Watson Wyatt Worldwide, Stamford, Conn.

**Fred J. Epstein, M.D. '63**

Chairman, Department of Neurosurgery  
New York University, Beth Israel North  
Director, Institute of Neurology and Neurosurgery

**Neil A. Kurtzman, M.D. '61**

Arnett Professor of Medicine and Chairman  
Department of Internal Medicine  
Texas University Health Sciences Center

**Nicholas F. LaRusso, M.D. '69**

Professor of Medicine and Biochemistry and Molecular Biology  
Chairman, Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology  
Director, Center for Basic Research and Digestive Diseases  
Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minn.

**Richard J. Macchia, M.D. '69**

Chairman and Professor, Department of Urology  
SUNY Health Science Center, Brooklyn

**Ernest S. Mathews, M.D. '53**

Surgeon, Massachusetts General Hospital

**Kathleen G. Nelson, M.D. '71**

Associate Dean for Students and Professor, Pediatrics  
University of Alabama School of Medicine

**Mark L. Rosenblum, M.D. '69**

Chairman, Department of Neurosurgery  
Henry Ford Hospital, Detroit

**Kenneth I. Shine, M.D.**

President, Institute of Medicine  
National Academy of Sciences, Washington, D.C.  
Professor of Medicine Emeritus  
University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) School of Medicine

**N. Noel Testa, M.D. '66**

Clinical Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery  
New York University Medical Center

**John G. Weg, M.D. '59**

Professor of Internal Medicine  
University of Michigan Medical Center

**Albert Willner, M.D. '43**

Retired; Emeritus Orthopedic Chief of Services  
United Hospitals of Newark, N.J.  
Crippled Children's Hospital, Newark, N.J.  
West Hudson Hospital, Kearny, N.J. ■

# Milestones

## 1990s

**Kristina Heer Deeter, M.D. '98,** and **Matthew Deeter, M.D. '98,** were married June 7, 1998. Matt's residency is in general surgery at Brooke Army Medical Center; Kris's is in pediatrics at University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio.

**Jeffrey H. Hsu, M.D. '97,** is a second-year general surgery resident at the Lahey Clinic Medical Center in Woburn, Mass.

**Eric Hsu, M.D. '97,** is happily engaged to Ruth Kim, M.D. and is busy with but enjoying his anesthesiology residency at the University of California at San Francisco.

**Mordecai (Mordi) Potash, M.D. '97,** and **Michelle Potash** are doing well in New Orleans. He is in his second year of a psychiatry residency at Tulane University. Michelle is clinical director of Bridge House, an alcohol and drug rehabilitation facility. "Friends in town for vacation or conference, please call us at 504-861-8452."

**David Paradis, M.D. '96,** is a third-year resident in emergency medicine at University of Southern California. He was married in April 1998; the wedding party included **Mark Schafer, M.D. '96.**

**Adam Weissman, M.D. '96,** will finish his emergency medicine residency at the University of Connecticut in Hartford on June 2.

**Johan K. Ahn, M.D. '95,** is in his third year of radiology residency at Tripler Hospital in Hawaii. "Life is good."

**Damanjeet Chaubey, M.D., M.P.H. '95,** joined Ridgefield Primary Care, an affiliate of Danbury (Conn.) Hospital in September 1998.

**Joseph R. Check, M.D. '95** is currently chief resident in the department of psychiatry at Yale University, working at Yale University Hospital's emergency room, and doing research at the post traumatic stress disorder firm at the West Haven Veterans Administration Hospital. He contributed to Peterson's "Insider's Guide to Medical Schools," due out this summer. His paper, "Munchausen's Syndrome by Proxy: An Atypical Form of Child Abuse," appeared in the journal of *Practicing Psychology and Behavioral Health* in November 1998.

**William G. Cihak II, M.D. '95,** has joined Dr. Richard C. Kahrmanis

in the practice of internal medicine in Guilford, Conn. Dr. Cihak treats a variety of adult health problems and is a member of the medical staff at Middlesex Hospital.

**William M. DeMarchi, M.D. '95,** has a private practice in internal medicine in Coral Springs and Parkland, Fla.

**Maja Lundborg-Gray, M.D. '95,** recently moved to Watertown, N.Y., to practice at Samaritan Medical Center's emergency department, which sees approximately 33,000 patients. Her husband, **Dan Gray, M.D. '91,** is also practicing—radiology—at Samaritan.

**Richard J. King, M.D. '95,** is continuing his military tour as the only U.S. medical officer within Allied Command Europe assigned to Headquarters, Allied Forces Central Europe in the triborder area of the Netherlands near Maastricht. He designed and built the only U.S. military medical facility in the Netherlands. "Fascinating experience working with Allied physicians and patients from many European countries."

**Michael J. Medvecky, M.D. '95,** married Pamela Sue Weiers October 17, 1998, in Manhattan. Dr. Medvecky is a fourth-year resident in orthopaedic surgery at NYU Medical Center and the Hospital for Joint Diseases.

**Thomas G. Oliver, M.D. '95,** recently completed his internal medicine residency at Brooke Army Medical Center and is an endocrine fellow at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington, D.C. "Still married to the love of my life, Debra, and we have one child, Caitlin, who is now 6 and in the first grade. Life is very nice. Wish all of my classmates well. Most of them anyway."

**Brian L. Reemsten, M.D. '95,** married Noel Christine Brachman in October, 1998, in New Hope, Pa. Dr. Reemsten is a surgical resident at UCLA Medical Center.

**Michaela E. Rennich, M.D. '95,** a board-certified family practitioner, has joined the medical staff of Lake Norman Regional Medical Center and the office of Primary Care Associates in Charlotte, N.C.

**John A. Eppolito, Jr., M.D. '94,** has been certified as a diplomate of the American Board of Family Practice. He is affiliated with the emergency department at Speare Memorial Hospital in Plymouth, N.H.



that is as good as or better than that which many of us buy on the commercial market."

For Dr. Intile, managing this medical-social experiment is a logical extension of his work in public service and private medical practice. Although he dabbled in medical politics, serving as president of the Oregon Society of Internal Medicine and the Clackamas County Medical Society, he spent most of his 30-year career in private practice as an internist in Oregon City. That was preceded by 10 years of active duty in the Army, where he served as flight surgeon in the Oregon Air National Guard before retiring in 1992. He became associated with the Oregon Health Plan in 1994 as medical director for one of the plan's commercial managed care organizations, and became medical director of the Oregon Medical Assistance Program and the Oregon Health Plan two years ago. "They were looking for someone who had both primary care and administrative experience, one who could be an advocate for physicians and their patients," Dr. Intile says.

His experience has made him a staunch advocate of the

program. "This state 'bureaucracy' is far less bureaucratic than most other organizations with which I've been involved. I am constantly impressed by the caliber of people who work here and how they are truly devoted to helping deliver a maximum benefit within the fiscal constraints of available funds. We are small enough to get to know people from all corners of the state, and large enough to have a population base with which we can be successful. The cooperation among physicians and plans is rightfully the envy of many who live and work in other jurisdictions."

"When I was a student at NYMC in the mid 50s, President J.A.W. Hetrick and Dean Ralph Snyder told us they wanted to turn out 'corking good physicians,'" Dr. Intile says. "I would add, you can make a good administrator out of a good physician but not a good physician out of an administrator. After all the years of taking care of people on an individual basis, I am now able to parlay that experience into helping to care for almost half a million people and their needs. What better way to end a career as a physician?" ■

## MEDICINE

### Laser Surgery for Enlarged Prostate

Norwalk (Conn.) Hospital urologist Francis A. Garofalo, M.D. '84, is using a minimally invasive laser treatment to offer patients relief from benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH), a condition that affects about 50 percent of men over the age of 60. Excessive prostate growth can lead to health problems and discomfort if the condition is not treated. The treatment method, the Indigo LaserOptic Treatment System, is an alternative to drug therapy or invasive surgery. It was developed by Indigo Medical Inc., a Johnson & Johnson company. ■

### DoctorNet Offers Web Service

Robert Cykiert, M.D. '76 has founded DoctorNet ([www.doctornet.com](http://www.doctornet.com)), a service that helps physicians create free, customized web pages and lists them in more than 50 specialties. Dr. Cykiert was recently appointed secretary of the medical board of the New York Eye Bank for Sight Restoration, the first eye bank in the U.S. He is also a founder and board member of University Physicians Network at NYU Medical Center and The New York Eye and Ear Infirmary Physician Hospital Organization, both in New York City. ■

**Philip G. Hirshman, M.D. '94**, married another ob/gyn, Jennifer Sherwood, in November, 1997. He is a staff attending at Darnall Army Community Hospital at Fort Hood, Tex., and a captain in the Medical Corps. His wife is in her first year of a four-year fellowship in gynecologic oncology at the University of Texas-Southwestern in Dallas. "We are slowly making the transition to living away from the East coast. We encourage NYMC grads in the Dallas or Killeen area to give us a ring."

**James Januzzi, Jr., M.D. '94**, and his wife, Roberta, announced the birth of their daughter, Caterina Maria, on December 15, 1997. He is a second-year cardiology fellow at Massachusetts General Hospital and was recently awarded the Roman DeSanctis Clinical Scholar Award. He recently published a book chapter and two journal articles on vascular disease.

**Michael A. Sanford, M.D. '94**, and his wife, Lori, recently had a baby girl, Abigail.

**Jessica Sangurima, M.D. '94**, is a medicine-pediatrics attending at Metropolitan Hospital Center. She is glad to be back in New York City and NYMC after her residency in Springfield, Mass.

**Lisabeth C. Shlansky, M.D. '94**, has joined the medical practice of Candlewood OB/GYN Associates in Danbury, Conn.

**Griffeth (Griff) Tully, M.D. '94**, and his wife, Keri, are living in Sacramento, Calif., and have an 18-month-old son, William.

**Steven A. Urban, M.D. '94**, finished residency training in physical medicine and rehabilitation at Sinai-Johns Hopkins in Baltimore in July 1998 and was chief resident his last year. He is currently an NIH geriatric research fellow at the University of Maryland's Geriatric Research Education Clinical Center and the Pepper Center for Geriatric Research studying the effects of aerobic exercise post-stroke. His wife, Kathy, is teaching children's voice at a private school in Washington, D.C.

**John Winkelman, M.D. '94**, is married and blessed with four wonderful children and a solo pediatric practice in San Pedro, Calif.

**Mario Amleto, M.D. '93**, is joining a family practice group in Higganum, Conn. He and his wife had their second child in December 1998. "Our family is enjoying living in our new home in Middletown, Conn."

**Sholey Argani, M.D. '93**, has received an American Heart

Association (Massachusetts affiliate) fellowship for research as she continues her renal fellowship at Massachusetts General Hospital. Her essay, "From Transplant Clinic," will appear in the Winter 1999 issue of *The Pharos*.

**Roger Fazio, M.D. '93**, just passed his pediatric certifying board exam and is practicing general pediatrics at the Naval Hospital, U.S. Navy Base at Roosevelt Roads in Puerto Rico.

**Leslie R. Halpern, M.D. '93**, has joined the medical staff at Blount Memorial Hospital in Maryville, Tenn. She specializes in oral and maxillofacial surgery.

**Shevann M. Doyle, M.D. '92**, began private practice in August 1998 at Westchester Orthopaedic Associates, P.C. in White Plains, N.Y., after completing a fellowship in pediatric orthopaedics at A.I. duPont Institute in Wilmington, Del. Her son, Thomas Jr. (aka Tucker), was born July 3, 1998.

**John P. Fezza, M.D. '92**, an oculoplastic and laser surgeon, has joined the medical staff at Center for Sight in Venice, Fla. Dr. Fezza specializes in cosmetic surgery, using lasers for skin rejuvenation and resurfacing.

**Frank Gaffney, M.D. '92**, has joined the Division of Community Internal Medicine, Inpatient Medicine, at Scott & White in Temple, Tex. Dr. Gaffney is board-certified in internal medicine and is a member of the American College of Physicians.

**Stephanie Peduto, M.D. '92**, is currently working in private practice as a pediatrician in Rhode Island. She and her husband, John, expected their first child in April.

**Jay Pennock, M.D. '92**, bought a house in "Surf City," Santa Cruz, and took an ER group independent in Salinas, Calif.

**Dion J. Arthur, M.D. '91**, marked his first year in private practice of orthopaedic spine surgery in September 1998. His practice, Premier Orthopaedics & Spine Specialists, is located in Hamlet, N.C.

**Laurence Haring, M.D. '91**, celebrated the first birthday of his daughter, Sophia Rose, on August 19, 1998.

**Gail Clifford Mullen, M.D. '91**, is a diplomate, American Board of Internal Medicine; chairman, department of medicine, Good Samaritan Regional Health Center in Mount Vernon, Ill., chairman, Institution Review Board of Good Samaritan; assistant clinical professor of the St. Louis University School of Medicine and the proud mother of 3-year-old Jacqueline.



She just completed her first year of law school at Saratoga University in San Jose, Calif., and reports she is thriving in private practice with no HMO.

**Richard C. Kaiser, M.D. '91,** and **Elizabeth M. Peters-Kaiser, M.D. '91,** are practicing in Massachusetts. Richard is a medical psychiatrist at Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital in Boston and Elizabeth is a radiologist at Emerson Hospital in Concord. Both have been affiliated with Harvard Medical School since their residency training. They have two children, ages 2 and 4.

**Roman Bilynsky, M.D. '90,** writes: "Still serving in Germany until the summer of 1999 and then to ??? in America."

**David S. Buyer, M.D. '90,** has joined Dr. Richard Scarpa at Schmidt-Fletcher Medical Associates in Newton, N.J. Dr. Buyer's cardiology practice includes interventional cardiology.

**Rich Covin, M.D. '90,** became a fellow of the American College of Surgeons last December. He practices ophthalmology and laser vision correction at Stephenville Medical and Surgeon Clinic in Stephenville, Tex.

**Mara J. Daidone, M.D. '90,** completed her residency in otolaryngology in 1996 and is currently fulfilling her final year of a military obligation at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio.

**Steven A. Josephson, M.D. '90,** and his wife, Jill P. Josephsen, M.D., are relocating to Charlotte, N.C., where they are both starting new practices. He will practice gastroenterology with Mecklenburg Medical Group, and was elected a fellow in the American College of Physicians in August 1998.

**Michael Marchetti, M.D. '90,** an ER physician at Bayshore Hospital in Homdel, N.J., was recently elected associate medical director of Monmouth/Ocean Emergency Services.

**David P. Sims, M.D. '90,** has joined the cardiac team at Wuesthoff Hospital in Rockledge, Fla., the surgical component of the Wuesthoff Cardiac Institute. Dr. Sims specializes in cardiothoracic surgery.

**Joanne P. Starr, M.D. '90,** completed a cardiothoracic fellowship at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center in New York City in July 1998. She is presently finishing a pediatric cardiac surgery fellowship at Children's Hospital in Seattle, Wash.

## 1980s

**Scott A. Berlin, M.D. '89,** has joined the Pain Diagnosis and Treatment Center at the Medical Center of Mesquite in Mesquite, Tex.

**Eugene Conrad, Ph.D., M.P.H.-General Public Health '89,** has been serving as interim health director for Stamford, Conn., while the city searches for a permanent director. Dr. Conrad, who lives in Stamford, runs an Internet medical publishing business and was not vying for the permanent post.

**Brendan E. Conroy, M.D. '89,** has been a board certified psychiatrist for several years. Hired by the National Rehabilitation Hospital in 1994, he was selected to be medical director of the NRH Stroke Recovery Program in January 1998. He has two "healthy, wonderful" children: Aidan, 5, and Deirdre, 1.

**Donna M. Gallagher, M.D. '89,** is director of women's imaging at Cape Cod Radiology Associates and Women's Imaging Center. "Looking forward to the 1999 reunion—hopefully I can make it."

**Jon F. Scheiber, M.D. '89,** has joined Cardiology Associates of Schenectady (N.Y.) P.C., a 17-physician group established in 1990 that specializes in all aspects of cardiac care for Montgomery and Fulton counties. Dr. Scheiber is finishing a cardiology fellowship at Penn State Geisinger Medical Center in Danville, Pa.

**Fredric M. Steinberg, M.D. '89,** practiced general medicine in Atlanta and completed an MBA in 1995. He has been writing articles defending science in the lay press, which earned him election as a director of the American Council of Science and Health in New York City. "After meeting a wonderful Irish cardiologist, I returned to training in internal medicine. After completing 12 months of training in Atlanta, I left for the United Kingdom, where she practices." They were married in October in Ireland and plan to settle in the UK, where he will complete his training.

**Richard Bodony, M.D. '88,** is living in Marin County, Calif., with his wife, Michelle Perro, M.D. (former NYMC attending at Metropolitan Hospital Pediatric ER), with their two children, Jesse and Anjali. "I'm successfully 'malpracticing' nighttime ER shifts in Berkely and Marin counties."

**Robert Goodman, M.S., '83 Ph.D. '88,** a statistical analyst, ran on the Libertarian ticket for New York State comptroller last fall as a watchdog for taxpayer abuse.

**Eric Schultheis, M.D. '88,** and his wife welcomed a son, Brian Jeremy, on May 25, 1998.

**Thomas Young, M.D. '88,** is cardiac catheterization lab director at Naval Medical Center in San Diego and has two children: Elizabeth, 5, and Katie, 2.

**William J. Greenberg, M.D. '87,** and his wife, Dr. Hilary Gleekman-Greenberg welcomed their second son, David Koss, on November 3, 1998. David joins his big brother Robert, who turned 2 in January.

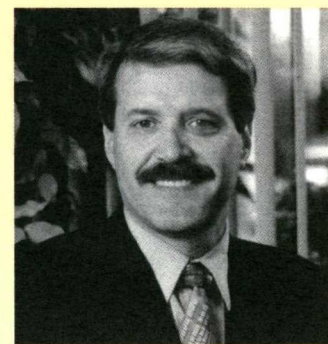
**William J. Kaiser, M.D. '87,** writes: "Willy (William J. IV) had his first birthday; Shannon is doing well—she is a lieutenant in the Public Health Service serving as a dentist."

**Joseph P. Rafferty, Jr., M.D. '87,** and his wife Kathe announced the birth of their son Patrick, who joins siblings Kaylene and Luke at their new home in Kingston, Mass.

**Anthony Reino, M.D. '87,** recently opened two offices—one in New Rochelle, N.Y., at 175 Memorial Highway, the other in Manhattan at 96<sup>th</sup> and Park Avenue. He maintains an academic affiliation with the Mount Sinai Medical Center and specializes in facial, plastic and reconstructive surgery as well as general otolaryngology. "Stop in!"

**Betty Landis Abrandt, M.P.H., P.T. '86,** has been appointed administrative director of physical medicine and rehabilitative services for Hudson Valley Hospital Center in Cortland Manor, N.Y. In addition to her administrative duties at the hospital, Ms. Abrandt is responsible for its outpatient physical therapy departments in Yorktown, Cold Spring, Croton and Premier Athletic Club in Montrose, supervising a staff of 25 therapists. She also oversees The Hudson Valley Sports Institute, which provides athletic training support to area high schools, and is a member of the board of directors of We Will Ride, a therapeutic riding program for developmentally delayed children.

**Peter E. Bentivegna, M.D. '85** (son of Saverio Bentivegna, M.D., '50, senior associate dean, Fifth Pathway Program) writes: "Stripers are biting on the Cape! Laurie, Matty, Devon and Morgan all say Hi!"



Kenneth P. Burres, M.D. '71

## Burres Pioneers New Disc Technique

Kenneth P. Burres, M.D. '71 has developed a new surgical technique—MicroLaser Discectomy™—for patients suffering from lumbar disc disease. "The idea behind it is to fix what is not right and try to leave the rest of the anatomy relatively untouched," Dr. Burres says. "The technique decompresses the pinched nerve by utilizing laser technology to remove the soft tissue pathology compressing the nerve—disc herniations, extrusions, bulges, scar tissue."

After imaging identifies the problem and confirms the surgical level, the neurosurgeon removes spurs, disc pathology or scar tissue from the nerve with the laser and other microscopic instruments through a small "window" in the rear of the spine. The disc is then vaporized with a neuroendoscope and a holmium fiberoptic laser and the area is flushed with an antibiotic.

"Using a small surgical site reduces post-operative pain and discomfort by minimizing the surgical wound," Dr. Burres notes. "Patients are generally up walking the night of surgery and leave the next morning and resume active physical regimens soon after surgery." The procedure, first introduced by Dr. Burres in 1993, is performed under general anesthesia in a hospital setting. For more information, visit his website at [www.microlaserdiscectomy.com](http://www.microlaserdiscectomy.com).

Dr. Burres practices surgery in Montclair, Calif., specializing in microsurgery, spine surgery, brain surgery and sports medicine. ■





Rev. Msgr. Harry C. Barrett, D.Min., M.P.H., reviews plans with Catherine S. Halkett, M.P.H., vice president, university planning and institutional research, who chairs the Renovation Steering Committee.

## Building for the Future

The College will spend \$24 million to create a new 50,000 square foot Medical Education Center and improve the existing Basic Sciences Building (BSB). Construction is scheduled to begin this summer, with completion slated for 2001.

The BSB is a multi-purpose structure where large lectures, small study groups, research projects, scholarly forums and social events are equally at home in what is the heart and soul of the university's Valhalla campus. Designed to be a temporary structure in the 1970s, the building has been taxed beyond its limits to accommodate growing educational and research needs. Aware that a renovation was overdue, the Board of Trustees approved the project as an opportunity to address the College's longer-term needs and goals.

"By enhancing our core educational capability and creating additional research space, we are fueling the growth of the College as we fulfill our mission," advises Rev. Msgr. Harry C. Barrett, D.Min., M.P.H., president and chief executive officer. "We've listened to the concerns and the dreams of our students and faculty, and we believe we'll soon have a

facility befitting the leading health science university we have become." The board retained Boston-based architects Payette Associates Inc., the architectural firm of choice for five leading academic medical centers in the nation, to design the project.

Funding for construction was accomplished primarily by refinancing the College's debt service. Further long-term plans will become active projects as funds are secured from alumni gifts, research grants and general fundraising.

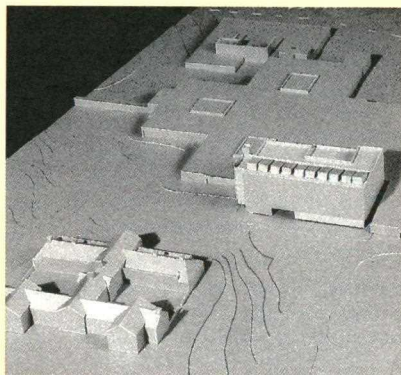
"The renovation offers special opportunities for named gifts," according to Wayne A. Steffey, vice president for university development. "We would be very proud to see the new auditoria, research labs, educational modules and gross anatomy lab named for donors. I hope those interested will give me a call [914/594-4528] to inquire about naming gifts." ■

## MEDICINE

### Stabinsky Traces Heritage

As founder of the Jewish Historical Society of Norwalk, Conn., Charles Stabinsky, M.D. '55, began four years ago to trace the contributions of Jewish settlers in his town. Last fall, his efforts resulted in a community-wide celebration. The Norwalk Museum featured an exhibition of the town's earliest Jewish residents, and an essay contest in the school system augmented the exhibit. Dr. Stabinsky has been a Norwalk physician and surgeon for 35 years. His parents, Polish immigrants who met in America, began Norwalk's New York Bakery. ■

### Room for Growth



Architect's model of the future Medical Education Center, elevated right, shows its relation to the adjacent Basic Sciences Building and the Administration Building, lower left.

The new **Medical Education Center** will centralize classrooms in a building separate from the existing research laboratories. Plans call for two floors of student modules—each accommodating 200 students in flexible configurations along with preparation areas, lockers and rest rooms—a lobby, and a library with 40 percent more space. The fourth floor will feature a new gross anatomy facility complete with its own preparation and shower facilities. There also are long-range plans to erect new research and library towers with additional core facilities, lab and office space to allow for the recruitment of new scientists. ■

**Douglas M. Berger, M.D. '85, Ph.D.**, invites friends to contact him in Tokyo via his home e-mail address, [berger@crisscross.com](mailto:berger@crisscross.com) or his website, [www.crisscross.com/users/berger/](http://www.crisscross.com/users/berger/).

**Arnold P. Good, M.D. '85**, is practicing interventional cardiology in Columbus, Ohio. He and his wife, Lisa, have two children, Alex and Hanna.

**Leonard D. Grossman, M.D. '85**, gave a free skin care and beauty seminar in Great Neck, N.Y., last fall. Dr. Grossman, a plastic and reconstructive surgeon who practices in Great Neck and Manhattan, is considered a pioneer in ultrasonic liposuction and endoscopic breast surgery and was cited as one of New York's best plastic surgeons in the Castle and Connolly Guide.

**Jonathan S. Jahr, M.D. '85**, and his wife, Jamielynn Hanam-Jahr, M.D. announced the birth of their daughter, Rachel Elizabeth Jahr, on June 3, 1998.

**Tom Pacicco, M.D. '85**, is working as a gastroenterologist at Charlotte Medical Clinic in Charlotte, N.C. Elaine Pacicco, M.D. '85 is a pediatrician at Arboretum Pediatrics in Charlotte. They have three children: Thomas, 11; Michael, 8; and Elise, 7. "We are coaching the kids in sports and our daughter in dance and having so much fun!"

**Alan J. Simons, M.D. '85**, is a full-time interventional cardiologist at SJH Cardiac Catheterization Associates in Syracuse, N.Y., and a fellow in the ACP, ACC and SCA&I. He and his wife, Deborah, have three children and live in Fayetteville, N.Y.

**Kevin C. Delahanty, M.D. '84**, remained in close contact with **Mario Tagliagame, M.D. '84** throughout 1997-1998, despite having to withdraw from the 1998 Newport Extreme Volleyball tournament. This was precipitated by the involvement of fellow classmate **Mark Cerbone, M.D. '84**, with the PBS television show "This Old House."

**Daniel Peters, M.D. '84**, a general surgeon with offices in Carmel and Mount Kisco, has joined the staff of Northern Westchester Hospital Center in Mount Kisco, N.Y.

**Matthew R. Smolin, M.D. '84**, was married October 25, 1997 to Sandra Caye Sanders and they are expecting a baby boy in May. An interventional cardiologist, Dr. Smolin was recently elected president of The Medical Specialty Clinic in Jackson, Tenn., and is chairman of cardiovascular disease service at Jackson-Madison County General Hospital.



# Marino to Develop Occupational Health Program

Phyllis E. Marino, M.D. '84 has been tapped to develop a new occupational health services program as director of occupational health service for Valley Health System in Paramus, N.J. The healthcare system has two hospitals and eight primary care sites serving Bergen, Passaic and Morris counties.

Dr. Marino is among the relatively few physicians in the country who are board certified in occupational medicine. For the past 10 years she has been working in occupational and environmental medicine in Mount Sinai's Community Medicine Department, where she still holds a faculty position. She joined Valley Health System in 1997 as medical director of the Occupational Health Center at Chilton Memorial Hospital in Pompton Plains, N.J. She is looking forward to establishing a state-of-the-art occupational medicine program outside of a major metropolitan area.



Phyllis E. Marino, M.D. '84  
Photo by Sal Benedetto

"A successful occupational health program is more than an occasional stress-management seminar or an annual blood pressure screening," Dr. Marino says. "We want to go beyond injury management to focus on prevention, provide comprehensive services that are coordinated with Valley Health's primary, acute and specialty care, and integrate national standards into everything we do. We'll also be tracking health outcomes to fine-tune our approach."

**Amy Batterman-Ditcheck, M.D. '83**, writes, "Our children (Rebecca, 7; Lisa, 5; and Brendon, 4) loved the reunion and particularly enjoyed the new playground. Our youngest, Sammy, (1) enjoyed the quiet at home. Wishing all a happy new year."

**John M. Cosgrove, M.D. '83**, was appointed associate chief of surgery at North Shore University Hospital in Forest Hills, N.Y., in addition to his position as director of laparoscopy/minimally invasive surgery at Long Island Jewish Medical Center in New Hyde Park. Dr. Cosgrove plans to recruit top surgeons and expand ambulatory surgery at the hospital.

**Susan Mandell, M.D. '83**, spoke recently at the Central Maine Medical Center Women's Health Forum on current practices in the care of breast cancer. Dr. Mandell is a specialist in radiation oncology at Central Maine Medical Center's Cynthia A. Rydholm Cancer Treatment Center.

**Alfred (Al) L. McKee, Jr., M.D. '82**, writes that his practice has evolved to focus on palliative medicine, treating patients with advanced cancer and aggressively managing patients with chronic non-cancer pain at Pain Management Center in Springfield, Mass.

**Vincent Panella, M.D. '82**, is practicing gastroenterology in Bergen and Hudson counties, N.J., in a three-man group and lives in Norwood with Donalynn, his wife of eight years (an RN he met at Englewood Hospital). Their son, Michael (5 and going on 35), has started kindergarten. "Would love to correspond with any of my buddies from NYMC via email: vpanella@cybernex.net."

**Richard M. Saunders, M.D. '82**, recently joined the Clinical Care Associates of the University of Pennsylvania Health Services. He still practices pulmonary, internal medicine and critical care medicine in Pottstown and Phoenixville, Pa., and has been living with his wife, Eileen, for the past 11 years after completing his residency at Danbury Hospital and his pulmonary fellowship at NYMC. They have two children: Matthew, 13, and Steven, 8.

**Brian K. Solow, M.D. '82**, continues to practice family medicine in southern California and is teaching at University of California at Irvine School of Medicine and doing consultant work on various aspects of managed care. His family—wife Sharon, and children, Kaleigh, 10 and Bartt, 6, are doing well.

**Robert P. Driscoll, M.D. '81**, is a general and vascular surgeon in private practice, a trauma

instructor at Massachusetts General Hospital, and a member of the American College of Surgeons State Committee on Trauma (Massachusetts). He and his wife, Cynthia, have four children: Bobby, 11; Austin, 9; Lucy, 7; and Liam, 4. "I'm in touch with **Robert Troisano, M.D. '82**, always to discuss Notre Dame vs USC football."

After years of being a salaried doctor for a staff model HMO and then its successor multispecialty group, **Barbara Mackintosh, M.D. '81**, will be entering private practice in internal medicine with her husband in Trumbull, Conn. "My son is almost 6, just started first grade and is a great joy."

**William C. Reha, M.D. '81**, is a urologist in private practice in Woodbridge, Va. He and his wife, Lynda, have two children: David, 7 and Christine, 6. Old friends can e-mail him at wreha@erols.com.

**Daniel J. Weinberg, M.D. '81**, has joined the vascular surgery section at Hitchcock Clinic in Keene, N.H.

**Linda Wyse, M.D. '81**, an ob/gyn and practitioner of maternal-fetal medicine with an office in Yorktown Heights, has joined the staff of Hudson Valley Hospital Center in Peekskill, N.Y.

**Philip Butler, M.D. '80**, is "looking forward to seeing all of you for our 20<sup>th</sup> in 2000."

**Rosemarie C. Newman, M.D. '80**, resigned July 1998 from her position as assistant professor at Albert Einstein College of Medicine and physician in charge of medical student education at Beth Israel Medical Center in New York City (where she received the CREOG Excellence in Teaching and Teacher of the Year award). She was married October 10, 1998, and is practicing ob/gyn in Raleigh, N.C., where she resides with her husband and four sons.

**Lidia Pousada, M.D. '80**, chief of geriatrics at Sound Shore Medical Center of Westchester in new Rochelle, N.Y., has launched two new programs for Westchester County senior citizens: The Incontinence Diagnosis and Treatment Center and the Osteoporosis and Nutrition Center. Dr. Pousada resides in Pelham Manor, N.Y., with her husband, Jim Kreindler, and their five daughters.

**Richard Rohr, M.D. '80**, was named acting health director of the city of Milford, Conn., until a permanent director is chosen. He is assistant director of the intensive care unit at Milford Hospital.

## 1970s

**Robert Barish, M.D. '79**, was promoted to associate dean for clinical affairs at the University of Maryland School of Medicine July 1, 1998.

**Regina M. Vaccaro, M.D. '79**, was married October 11, 1998 to John Arthur Wendell, B.S.M.E. (NDE-Engineer) vice chairman, northeastern N.Y./N.J. chapter, American Society for Nondestructive Testing (ASNT) and president of Toxic Advisor. Dr. Vaccaro, a radiologist, presented a paper with her husband on safety precautions in nondestructive engineering at an ASNT conference in Orlando, Fla., in March.

**Stephen Hoverman, M.D. '78**, has been appointed medical director for St. Anthony Community Hospital in Orange County, N.Y. Dr. Hoverman specializes in internal, geriatric and critical care medicine and is a partner in Fiore and Hoverman in Warwick, N.Y. He has been a member of the hospital's staff since 1981.

**Chuck Lanzieri, M.D. '78**, was promoted to professor of radiology at Case Western Reserve University in July 1998. He is currently director of the residency training program in diagnostic radiology and section head of neuroradiology. About two years ago he finally lost his "golf virginity" and now plays two times a week.

**John T. Repke, M.D. '78**, was elected an alumni member to NYMC's Iota chapter of Alpha Omega Alpha. He resides in Omaha with his wife, Jaque.

**Douglas A. Byrnes, M.D. '77**, is a cardiovascular disease specialist at Huntington Hospital in Huntington, N.Y., and serves on the faculty of SUNY Stony Brook School of Medicine. He is board certified in internal medicine, CVD, critical care and critical care medicine. His son, Luke, is a freshman medical student at the University of Guadalajara, Mexico.

**Paul K. Ho, M.D. '77**, has practiced hand and orthopaedic surgery in Indianapolis, Ind., the hometown of his wife, Susan, since 1995. He recently founded the Sports, Hand and Orthopaedics Institute.

**Larry J. Bernstein, M.D. '76**, is medical director of a new state-of-the-art MRI facility, Community Radiology in Germantown, Md.

**Robert Stern, M.D. '76**, and his wife, Anita, are doing well in Wappingers Falls, N.Y. He is director of ob/gyn at Vassar



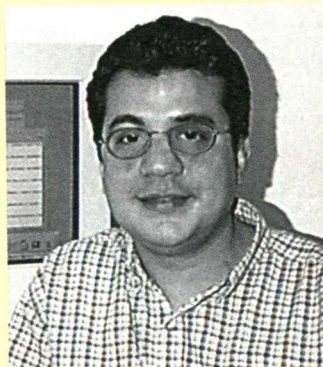
## Charting the Path of Disease

As sequencing of the human genome progresses, pathologists like Umesh Bhatia, Ph.D. '96, are using this data to plan their attack on finding novel genes associated with disease pathways. Dr. Bhatia joined the Pharma division of Novartis in Summit, N.J., last year as head of its Functional

M.D., Ph.D., director of the College's Brander Cancer Research Institute and professor of medicine and pathology, and Frank Traganos, Ph.D., professor of medicine and associate director of the Brander center.

Following graduation, Dr. Bhatia worked with molecular biologist Walter Gilbert, Ph.D., at Harvard, who received the 1980 Nobel prize in chemistry. There he began using bioinformatics—the emerging science of computational biology—to trace the evolution of the human gene pool.

At Novartis, Dr. Bhatia is using bioinformatics to mine and integrate gene sequence and expression data to explore the evolutionary relationships between genes and the pathways that correlate with disease. "The farther upstream in the pathway we go, the better our chances of blocking the pathway for disease and limiting its expression," Bhatia explains. "While some diseases result from problems within a single gene, more complex diseases like cancer, heart disease and atherosclerosis emerge because several genes are affected. Knowing all the human gene sequences and their associated polymorphisms might help identify most of the genes for complex diseases." ■



Umesh Bhatia, Ph.D. '96

Genomics and Bioinformatics Laboratory. A resident of Branchburg, N.J., he is working with colleagues to identify likely gene candidates implicated in disease, the first critical step in developing new drugs.

An interest in disease processes led Dr. Bhatia to New York Medical College for postgraduate studies in experimental pathology under Henry Godfrey, M.D., Ph.D., professor of pathology and graduate program director, and Zbigniew Darzynkiewicz,



Graduate School of Basic Medical Sciences Dean Francis L. Belloni, Ph.D., right, welcomed Anton M. Bennett, Ph.D. '93, assistant professor of pharmacology at Yale School of Medicine, who emceed the Eleventh Annual Graduate Student Research Forum in March.

Brothers Hospital in Poughkeepsie, N.Y. "Karyn is now a second-year dental student at Tufts School of Dental Medicine; Jodi is pre-law at University of Rhode Island and Josh is pre-med at Brown University."

**J. Craig Stevens, M.D. '76**, began a private practice in general medicine in Clark Fork, Idaho, last year, becoming the only doctor for 37 miles. Born in New York City, Stevens and his wife, Luciann, moved to Idaho early last year after deciding to leave the urban way of life.

**Graham F. Whitfield, M.D., Ph.D. '76**, has been appointed clinical assistant professor of orthopaedic surgery at Nova Southeastern University College of Osteopathic Medicine, in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

**Catherine L. Dunn, M.D. '75**, had a wonderful two-month mini-sabbatical in Europe and is now back at work at a community mental health center in Seattle. She hopes to see all her med school roommates at their 25th reunion in 2000.

**Edward G. Halstead, M.D. '75**, and his wife, Pam, of Woodbridge, Conn., are very pleased to report that their eldest daughter, Jennifer Jean Halstead, began medical school at NYMC last fall.

**Steven E. Hyler, M.D., '75**, recently assumed the position of director, psychiatric adult outpatient department of St. Lukes/Roosevelt Hospital Center. He continues on the staff of the New York State Psychiatric Institute and the faculty of Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons.

**Richard S. Kops, M.D., '74**, writes: "I'm still turned on and busy at the practice of pulmonary and critical care medicine at Mt. Diablo Medical Center in Concord, Calif. I still have some time to be on the volunteer faculty at the county hospital, to stay active in the local Rotary, and this year to serve as president of the American Lung Association of Contra Costa-Solano Counties. My wife, Alice, a teacher for 18 years, is now working in her second career as a family law attorney in Pleasanton, Calif. Our son, Greg, is very happy as a sophomore at Cornell and our daughter, Andrea, is a senior at the College Preparatory School in Oakland. We especially enjoy hearing from classmates. It's been some time since I ran into **Rusty Kellogg, M.D. '74**, in New York and **Barbara (Rever) Ginsburg, M.D. '74**, in Monterey."

**Steven Weinstock, M.D. '74**, is practicing gastroenterology in Torrance, Calif., and celebrated his 28th wedding anniversary in August. His oldest son, Amiel,

was married in June 1998; his middle daughter, Sarah, was married in December 1998, and his youngest daughter, Georgette, is attending the University of Michigan. "Still friendly with **Bob Schwartz, M.D. '74**."

**Thomas J. Flanner, M.D. '73**, was appointed vice president-medical director at BlueCross BlueShield of Central New York, which he joined last year as medical director. He will oversee medical quality, pharmacy benefits management, health education, and utilization of management.

**James M. Maisel, M.D. '73**, is enjoying his retina practice in Hicksville and Hauppauge, Long Island, while pursuing medical informatics interests. As founder and CEO of ZyDoc Technologies, he has successfully launched a speech recognition product. He is also chairman of HOST, a nonprofit group that promotes the development of information technology to improve health care.

**Arthur Kaye, M.D. '72**, was appointed assistant clinical professor of pediatrics at New York Medical College on January 1, 1998.

**Harvey Simon, M.D. '72**, will be graduating with a J.D. degree in May 1999 and plans to develop a legal practice focusing on medical-legal issues.

**David H. Young, M.D. '72**, reports his wife, America, is an oncology nurse; his daughter, Danielle, is a pre-med student at Creighton University; son Dan is a junior in high school, and son David is the only surgeon in O'Neill, Neb., and loving it.

**Harvey W. Aiges, M.D. '71**, has two new positions: chairman, graduate medical education, North Shore Health System, Manhasset, N.Y., and secretary/treasurer, Association of Pediatric Program Directors.

**Edward J. Goldstein, M.D. '71**, is chairman, department of radiology, Bayhealth Medical Center/Milford Memorial Hospital, in Milford, Del.

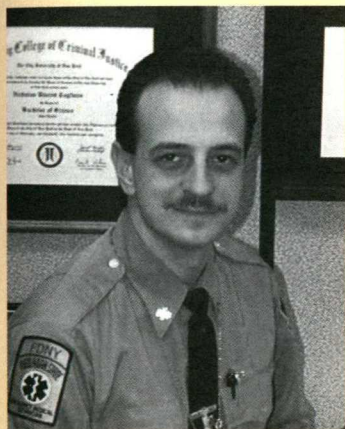
**Michael Bonder, M.D. '70**, is clinical associate professor of ob/gyn at the Chattanooga unit of the University of Tennessee College of Medicine and president, chairman and CEO of a 35-physician primary care group composed of internists, pediatricians, family medicine practitioners and ob/gyns in Chattanooga in addition to his active ob/gyn practice.

**Joel I. Brenner, M.D. '70**, after 21 years at the University of Maryland Hospital, will join three of his Maryland colleagues to become co-director of pediatric cardiology



## JUST-IN-TIME MEDICAL SERVICES

In a city as vast and diverse as New York, you might think providing emergency medical services was a near-impossible task. But information plays an important role in making it more manageable, according to Nicholas V. Cagliuso, M.P.H. '98, EMT-D, who is assistant to the medical director of the city's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Command, a division of the



Nicholas Cagliuso, M.P.H. '98 EMT-D, at Emergency Medical Services Command in Brooklyn, N.Y.

Fire Department. Cagliuso assists in the collection, review, analysis and publication of data that drives pre-hospital emergency medical services deployment throughout the city. "I research growing trends, treatment and medical oversight issues so that the emergency medical director can provide the fastest, most effective response to medical emergencies," Cagliuso says.

Based in Brooklyn's Metrotech Center, Cagliuso is gathering and coordinating data for a number of important tests. One will gauge the effectiveness of EMS technicians giving nebulized albuterol to asthma patients before they reach the hospital; another will test whether acquiring 12-lead cardiograms in the pre-hospital setting will help emergency rooms provide more effective triage and treatment of cardiac patients. A third, which was Cagliuso's thesis topic, examines the

effect of on-line medical control on the outcome of elderly patients who refuse pre-hospital care once an ambulance arrives. Results from these surveys will affect training and protocol decisions for the city's 3,000 EMTs and paramedics.

Emergency medical services have been a life-long interest for Cagliuso. Growing up in Brooklyn's Midwood section, he volunteered with a local ambulance service in high school and got an undergraduate degree in fire science, cum laude, from John Jay College. He was simultaneously accepted into the College's master's in public health-EMS program and the New York City Fire Department's Emergency Services Academy. Managing a triple shift, he attended both schools while working full time for a fire department as an EMT in Coney Island.

Eventually, he hopes to study for a doctoral degree in public and urban policy with a concentration in health services management. He's particularly interested in targeting EMS more precisely in urban environments and exploring the changing role of emergency medical services in community health. "Emergency medical services are evolving to become more public health oriented," he says. "Many people use emergency rooms as their primary care providers, which means that many of the calls we receive tie up the system because they don't require a 911 ambulance. EMS can work more proactively to provide educational wellness and preventive services like immunizations and help people manage their health more wisely. And that will increase the availability of emergency medical services for true emergencies."

Cagliuso and his wife, Jeannine, live in Brooklyn in the house where he grew up. They are expecting their first child this year. ■

at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Md. Dr. Brenner spent the last 15 years at Maryland as director of the division of pediatric cardiology and professor of pediatrics.

**Thomas B. Graboys, M.D. '70**, of Brookline, Mass., reports great sadness in his life with the death of his wife Caroline. "We were married between my second and third year at the College—nearly 30 years—and I am bereft without her."

**John T. Mazzeo, M.D. '70**, a general surgeon with a subspecialty in diseases of the breast, spoke on breast cancer awareness last fall at the Vicksburg (Miss.) Business and Professional Women's Club. Dr. Mazzeo is affiliated with River Region Medical Corp.

## 1960s

**Michael Bernstein, M.D. '69**, and his partners in the Olympic Orthopaedic Group have opened a new office in Mount Kisco, N.Y. (in addition to their first office in Carmel near Putnam Hospital), and he has joined the medical staff of Northern Westchester Hospital Center in Mount Kisco. Dr. Bernstein specializes in women's sports medicine.

**Nancy D. Baker, M.D. '67**, is practicing musculo-skeletal radiology at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, Mass.

**Marc Lowen, M.D. '67**, is associate obstetrician and gynecologist-in-chief, and director of the residency education program at Sinai Hospital in Baltimore. He maintains a private practice in gynecology in Baltimore.

**Arthur A. Topilow, M.D. '67**, is "still in private practice and working as director of hematology and medical oncology at Jersey Shore Medical Center in Neptune, N.J. I am presently studying the effect of pamidronate on skeletal malignancy. I have had time, however, this year to explore the Amazon for peacock bass, captain a sailboat in Maine, and play piano in several jazz concerts with my own group of professional musicians. **Judy Fiedler Topilow, M.D. '67**, and I managed to get our son, Justin, married off this year as well."

**Howard Cantwell, M.D. '65**, visited his fourth grandchild, born in Hong Kong in October 1998, and then traveled into China. "Great grandson, great trip. Semi-retired from active practice of orthopaedics in May 1998—fed up with HMOs!"

**Qwie T. Chew, M.D. '65**, is still director of radiology services at the Bayonne Hospital in Bayonne, N.J., where he has been 14 years.

**Irwin H. Steiger, M.D. '65**, after practicing for many years in West Los Angeles and Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, moved with his wife to the Napa Valley, Calif., in 1994, where, in addition to actively practicing medicine, he owns a producing vineyard and winery. They have two grown sons who live in Los Angeles and San Francisco.

**Robert Sanford, M.D. '64**, has a new granddaughter; son **Michael A. Sanford, M.D. '94**, and his wife, Lori, recently had a baby girl, Abigail.

**Stephen Brenner, M.D. '62**, is enjoying gastrointestinal practice in Riverdale, N.Y., life with his lovely wife Merle, their three daughters and five grandchildren.

**Robert Harwood, M.D. '62**, is now with Johnson & Johnson Co.'s Ortho Biotech division as regional assistant medical director for the western region.

**Aileen Kass, M.D. '62**, announces that her daughter, Robin Kass, M.D., started a private neurology practice in Port St. Lucie, Fla., in July 1998.

**Barry S. Meltzer, M.D. '62**, and his wife have become grandparents for the second time; grandson Jacob Bender has a sister, Jasmine. "I missed our 35<sup>th</sup> reunion but am looking forward to the 40<sup>th</sup> in 2002. By then I will have cut back on my professional activity, leaving more travel time."

**Fred L. Humeston, M.D. '61**, is still in solo private pediatrics practice. His wife, Liz, retired and they are enjoying their five grandchildren.

**Harvey Reback, M.D. '61**, is still practicing internal medicine and is chief of the division of medicine at Charlton Memorial Hospital in Fall River, Mass.

**Richard W. Lindsay, M.D. '60**, professor of medicine at the University of Virginia School of Medicine and director of its Center for Health of the Elderly, spoke at a workshop entitled, "Growing Older, Growing Wiser," sponsored by the Lake Country Area Agency on Aging in Clarksville, Va., last fall.

**Carl M. Marchetti, M.D. '60 M.B.A.**, was appointed medical director of Meridian Health Systems of Monmouth/Ocean County, N.J.

**Rafael E. Perez, M.D. '60**, of Los Angeles, recently visited Prague and the Czech Republic, then stayed in New York for ten days. "Noticed great changes in the Apple—my best to the class of '60."



# Winter Seminar Examines Controversies in Surgery and Medicine

The Alumni Association held its 16th annual winter seminar at the Westin Rio Mar Beach Resort and Country Club in Puerto Rico January 24-30. The four-day program was chaired by Joseph F. Dursi, M.D. '59, associate professor of surgery and associate dean, continuing medical education. In addition to technical presentations by College program chairmen, the seminar included an update on Alumni Association activities by its president, Dennis J. Allendorf, M.D. '70; the role of a medical school in relationship to hospital networks by Rev. Msgr. Harry C. Barrett, D.Min., M.P.H., president and chief executive officer; and the dean's report on medical education by Ralph A. O'Connell, M.D., provost and dean of the School of Medicine. The seminar offered participants 20 hours of category 1 credit toward the American Medical Association's physician's recognition award. ■



From left: Elizabeth A.M. Frost, M.D., professor and chair, Department of Anesthesiology; Dennis J. Allendorf, M.D. '70, president of the Alumni Association; and Laurence Sibrack, M.D., Ph.D., associate clinical professor of dermatology, Yale University School of Medicine, and his wife, Rita



From left: Jane O'Connell with her husband Ralph A. O'Connell, M.D., provost and dean, School of Medicine and Tatyana Kizelshteyn with her husband Grigory Kizelshteyn, M.D., associate professor, anesthesiology

## 1950s

**Benjamin J. Sadock, M.D. '59**, has been appointed the Menas S. Gregory Professor of Psychiatry at NYU School of Medicine. He is also vice-chairman of the department.

**William H. Brown, M.D. '57**, of Alexandria, Va., plans to retire May 1.

**Robert P. Gruninger, M.D. '57**, retired June 30, 1998. "Remaining in Chapel Hill, N.C., playing lots of golf, some sailing and lots of other things."

**Robert "Sandy" Littlejohn, M.D. '57**, writes: "41 years since graduation, 38 years in family practice in Barberton, Ohio, 9 children, 20 grandchildren; getting ready for next 30 years of family practice."

**Richard G. Cook, M.D. '56**, is retired and living in Jensen Beach, Fla.

**James B. Leach, M.D. '56**, writes: "Saw Tom Martin, M.D. '56, Jim Hagerty, M.D. '56, and Bill Varr, M.D. '56, at our 50<sup>th</sup> high school reunion. Doug Nisbet, M.D. '56, and I play golf at our club in Rhode Island. All of us continue to be responsible for a mini-Rhode Island population explosion: our 13th grandchild is on the way and I think we must have well over 30 amongst the five of us. Hi to all around the country. See you in 2006!"

**Gerald W. Parker, M.D. '55**, retired in June 1997 after 41 years of federal service and now resides on 16 acres of New Hampshire fields and forests. He and his wife, Susan Emerson, have pledged the land as a wildlife refuge.

**Anita S. Curran-Smith, M.D. '55, M.P.H.**, writes that she is 90 percent retired, but does a "little consulting just for the fun of it" (she is a member of the President's National Advisory Council; see story page 1) and is about to become a grandmother to grandchild number 13.

**John W. Mills, M.D. '53**, is retired in Indiana, Pa., but is still the medical editor of *Pennsylvania Medicine*.

**William A. Eddy, M.D. '52**, has retired from ob/gyn practice but works part time in the prenatal clinic of the Long Beach (Calif.) Health Department. He made three backpacking trips last summer, two in the Sierras and one in the Marble Mountains.

**Robert E. Gaffney, M.D. '52**, of Fairfield, Conn., retired January 1.

**Walter Henry, M.D. '52**, attended the 50<sup>th</sup> class reunion of Columbia

College Class of '48, where he socialized with Flower and Fifth Avenue classmates **Dick Calame, M.D. '52**, and **Sears Edwards, M.D. '52**, who have retired.

**Alfred C. Levin, M.D. '52**, is retired from his ob/gyn practice in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., and enjoys news of former classmates and other alumni.

**Edgar Kogan, M.D. '51**, practices gastroenterology in Elizabeth, N.J., with his son, **Robert Kogan, M.D. '81**. They play golf in the annual alumni golf tournament every year.

**George D. Vlahides, M.D. '51**, of Schenectady, N.Y., is still working full time in clinical hematology and looking forward to the next class reunion. "Best regards!"

**David Plotkin, M.D. '50**, is alive and well in Highland Beach, Fla., and still practicing *locum tenens* part time. "Regards to all my classmates—looking forward to the 'Big 50.'"

**Gregory J. Zann, M.D. '50**, writes: "Mildred and I still reside in Boca Raton, Fla., and have passed our 53<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of marital bliss. Our three sons are in active practice here also. I am partially retired and involved as a local volunteer, providing medical assistance to patients in need. Professionally, I address the medical area of geriatric gynecology (ERT Rx, clinical breast care and osteoporosis), an area of recurrent need."

## 1940s

**Richard A. Raffman, M.D. '49**, is still at work, mostly speaking Spanish in Newark and Elizabeth, N.J., and Westchester, N.Y. His new grandson, Ethan Raffman, was born in Seattle on September 8, 1998.

**Sylvia Fried, M.D. '47**, retired five-and-a-half years ago and has 10 grandchildren ranging in age from 18 to 18 months. "Traveling, taking college literature courses, having a ball."

**Ciro S. Tarta, M.D. '43**, was recently honored for his leadership in making Wayne General Hospital in Clifton, N.J., a successful institution at the hospital's Annual Charity Ball, commemorating 127 years of caring and sharing. Dr. Tarta, who is retired, served on the hospital staff for 52 years.

**Walter Berlin, M.D. '40**, is very much alive and active in many areas, but unfortunately is living the solitary life in Portland, Ore., having lost four wives to illness. He would like to hear from classmates.



## 1930s

**Malcolm L. Colmer, M.D. '38**, wants to let friends know he is still around. He and his daughter, Dr. Amy Ream, an anesthesiologist in Portland, Ore., attended the American College of Surgeons meeting in Orlando and had a good time.

**Bella Singer, M.D. '31**, writes: "Since retiring from medicine I live in a retirement apartment in Walnut Creek, Calif., where my return to a life-time study of classical piano playing allows me to give piano recitals to the residents here. I continue to write poetry (150 poems in the past 10 years). My husband, **George H. Stein, M.D.**, also a 1931 graduate of the College, passed away nearly 10 years ago. I am 93 years old."

**G. W. Monteleone, M.D. '37**, is living in Ithaca, N.Y., and would like to hear from classmates.

## 1920s

**Robert D. Hirsch, M.D. '61**, writes that his father, **Solomon Hirsch, M.D. '29**, is still going strong at 93, despite a strong family history of atherosclerosis. When he left the Army in 1945, he reentered family practice and became a pioneer in nutrition. He preached low-fat diets, daily aspirin, vitamins and exercise (both physical and cerebral) 30 years or more before they became popular. He still enjoys master's bridge, medical journals and the love and adoration of his family. His one sadness is that he has lost so many of his contemporaries.

## In Memoriam

**Richard J. Babcock, M.D. '56**, died June 13, 1998.

**John K. Butler, M.D. '51**, died November 4, 1998, in Orange, N.J.

**William I. Cerier, M.D. '54**, died May 28, 1998.

**Amos B. Cobert, M.D. '43**, died September 16, 1996.

**Edward M. Coe, M.D. '41**, died December 7, 1997.

**Jacob DeVita, M.D. '36**, died July 31, 1998.

**John R. Doyle, M.D. '53**, died December 16, 1998, in Hackensack, N.J.

**Harry N. Fleischer, M.D. '33**, died November 27, 1998.

**Howard M. Fleissig, M.D. '67**, died November 10, 1998.

**Peter J. Guthorn, M.D. '43**, died September 28, 1998 in Severna Park, Md.

**Hunter P. Harris, Jr. M.D. '40**, died August 4, 1998 in Houston, Tex.

**Benjamin H. Josephson, M.D. '52**, died September 9, 1998 in New Vernon, N.J.

**Steven Kantor, M.D. '67**, died November 15, 1998.

**William H. Keeler, M.D. '48**, died December 10, 1998, in Newark, N.J.

**Raymond W. Lawrence, M.D. '48**, died in October 1998.

**William P. Magee, M.D. '42**, died September 15, 1998.

**James T. Miglietta, M.D. '81**, died January 9, 1998.

**Emeric J. Rochford, M.D. '57**, died August 22, 1998.

**Frank R. Romano, M.D. '39**, died January 1998.

**Benjamin M. Shenker, M.D. '38**, died January 5, 1999.

**Louis A. Susca, M.D. '55**, died April 20, 1998.

**Stanley "Doc" P. Wegryn, M.D. '56**, died December 10, 1998, in Sanibel Island, Fla.

**Selden T. Williams, M.D. '43**, died September 29, 1998 in Rochester, N.Y.

**Robert B. Wolov, M.D. '75**, died August 24, 1998 in Oban, Scotland.

**Clifford J. Zeiss, M.D. '44**, died February 14, 1996.

## Faculty

**Saul A. Schwartz, M.D. '30**, professor emeritus, Department of Medicine, died November 29, 1998, in Cherry Hill, N.J.

**Alexander Vartany, M.D.**, associate professor of surgery, died December 19, 1998.

**Eugene J. Wenk, Ph.D. '72**, died April 15, 1999 in Rutherford, N.J.

## Postscript

*Our article in the Fall/Winter issue about doctors for pro sports teams brought this tidbit from Francis X. Stanton, Jr. M.D. '80:*

"You can add my name to your list of physicians with professional sports affiliations. I am the ophthalmologist for the San Diego Padres baseball team. Though my allegiance was divided during the World Series, I made sure the right team triumphed."

## Calendar

May 7, 8 and 9, 1999

*School of Medicine Reunion Weekend 1999*

May 7 Class of '74—25th Reunion  
Awarding of Silver Diplomas  
University Club, New York City

May 8 Alumni banquet and awards presentation  
Class of '49—50th Reunion  
Awarding of Gold Diplomas  
The Plaza, New York City

May 9 Fifth-year class reunions  
Alumni Center, Valhalla  
Reunion classes: 1934, 1939, 1944, 1949,  
1954, 1959, 1964, 1969, 1974, 1979, 1984,  
1989 and 1994

*Commencement Week*

May 10 Fifth Pathway completion ceremony  
and reception  
Tent, Alumni Center

May 11 Dean's Medical Student Research Forum and  
award luncheon  
Tent, Alumni Center

May 12 Basic Medical Sciences commencement luncheon  
Health Sciences dinner and awards  
Tent, Alumni Center

May 13 University champagne reception  
Tent, Alumni Center

**October 28 "Medicine at the Millenium:  
Looking at the Past, Planning for the Future"  
10:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.  
Abigail Kirsch's Tappan Hill  
Tarrytown, N.Y.**

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