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New York Medical College

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inTOUCH

Volume Nineteen | Number Six
August 2013

EDUCATION ► RESEARCH ► SERVICE

NYMC welcomes School of Medicine Class of 2017



Members of the Class of 2017 stood proudly on stage with their crisp new white coats.

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The College rolled out the welcome mat for the future physicians of the Class of 2017 as a week full of activities prepped them for the transition to medical school. Once the new first-years were settled in student housing and got acquainted at several social events planned throughout the week, they were quick to learn about academic policies, the student honor code, professionalism and the meaning of being a physician.

The highlight of the week—the White Coat Ceremony—emphasized just that and the Class of 2017 officially and ceremoniously began its

journey into medicine. A record-breaking crowd of more than 1,000 guests converged on campus to witness the new medical students as they donned their white coats for the first time and affirmed their commitment to compassionate patient care.

“I ask you for one favor: do not settle for mediocrity. Reach for the stars. There are 18,000 other medical students matriculating as we speak who can at their choosing set the mean. Not you! You will set the upper limit.” These words were spoken by Amin Esfahani, Class of 2014 and president of the Student Senate, in his address to

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College receives unprecedented 12-year ACGME accreditation

Last month *InTouch* reported that the College had learned it was granted continued full accreditation by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) for its residency and fellowship programs for five years through 2018—the maximum period allowable, at the time. On July 1, the ACGME introduced a new accreditation model, the Next Accreditation System (NAS), a competency-based method developed to reduce administrative burden, facilitate innovation, improve patient safety, and enhance quality of patient care. As we went to press, the College learned even more exciting news: under the NAS, New York Medical College’s accreditation was extended to the year 2025—an unprecedented 12 year accreditation period.

“The successful outcome of the review and the resulting long period of continued accreditation confirm the high quality of the advanced training programs provided to new physicians by the College’s clinical departments at all of its affiliated teaching hospitals,” said Richard McCarrick, M.D., vice dean for graduate medical education and affiliations.

The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education is a private, non-profit council that evaluates and accredits more than 9,000 residency programs in 135 specialties and subspecialties in the United States, affecting more than 116,000 residents. Its mission is to improve health care in the U.S. by assessing and advancing the quality of graduate medical education for physicians in training through accreditation. ▲



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Accolades

■ **Lars Bellner, Ph.D.**, instructor of physiology, is a 2013 Fight for Sight Awardee for his work "Dysregulated Heme Oxygenase-Ferritin System in Pterygium Pathogenesis."

■ **Luis F. Riquelme, Ph.D., CCC-SLP**, associate professor of speech-language pathology, was an invited speaker at the Dysphagia Research Society's 21st Annual Meeting held in Seattle in March. He presented "Videofluoroscopy: I did it my way" and a poster, "Effects of DBS on swallow physiology in persons with Parkinson's Disease."

■ **Michal L. Schwartzman, Ph.D.**, professor and chair of the Department of Pharmacology, was invited to chair a session, "Mediators in Blood Pressure Control," at the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) Summer Research Conference held in June in Saxtons River, Vermont. The session was co-chaired by graduate students Victor Garcia and Gregory Joseph. Dr. Schwartzman also presented "20-HETE mediates microvascular remodeling and cardiac dysfunction in hypertension." Mr. Garcia and Mr. Joseph presented posters, "Angiotensin converting enzyme inhibition does not prevent 20-HETE-mediated vascular injury in Cyp4a12tg mice" and "The role of Cyp4a12-20-HETE synthase in the regulation of blood pressure, vascular hypertrophy, and cardiac dysfunction," respectively.

■ The Department of Speech-Language Pathology (SLP) was well represented at the annual convention of the New York State Speech-Language-Hearing Association held in Saratoga Springs, N.Y. Twenty-three SLP students presented seven posters:

Open Your Doors to Aphasia: Building an Aphasia Friendly Business – Raquel Brown, Amanda Donaldson, Rachel White, Danielle Livecchi, Jocelyn Martin and Barbara Leader, M.A., CCC-SLP, assistant professor of clinical speech-language pathology.

Aquatic Therapy as a Clinical Tool in Speech-Language Pathology – Sara Cutie, Larina Luu, Kristin Thurlow and Kate Franklin, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, associate professor and SLP chair and Elizabeth Rogers, M.S. '09, clinical educator.

Changes in Oropharyngeal Swallow Physiology in Persons with Dementia – Diana Deaibes, Jessica Hurley, Jaime Silverman, Alyssa Ternullo and Luis F. Riquelme, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, assistant professor of clinical speech-language pathology

Dynamics of Pill Swallowing in Adults: Changes in Oropharyngeal Physiology – Christine Gizzi, Heather Hankinson, Hannah Tahhan, Joshua Teitcher and Dr. Riquelme

Aphasia 911: Training and Resources for Emergency Responders – Helen Jacobs, Jessica Lopez, Rebecca Reina and Ms. Leader

Comparison of Accuracy and Speed of Message Formulation Using Two Low-tech Letterboard Arrangements – Preethi Kumar, Mary Michael, Chelsea Oyer and Dr. Franklin

The Limits of Licensure and Scope Drift's Slippery Slope – Gabriela Stastny and Ms. Leader

SLP students **Jennifer Biener**, **Meladel Busante** and **Elizabeth Stampfel** also won the annual student competition for a grand prize of vouchers towards registration for the Praxis examination (the national exam in speech-language pathology) Dr. Riquelme served as their advisor during the competition.

Jennifer L. Koestler, M.D., is promoted to senior associate dean for medical education

Jennifer L. Koestler, M.D., who has served as associate dean for medical education since 2008, has been promoted to senior associate dean for medical education, effective August 1. During her tenure, she has promoted innovative programs in medical education involving the medical humanities, clinical skills development and professionalism. Dr. Koestler says she looks forward to furthering those plans in her newly expanded role. "I am excited to continue to develop innovative programs in medical education in collaboration with the school's devoted faculty and committed student body," she said.

Dr. Koestler is a graduate of the Union College/Albany Medical College Seven Year Medical Program. She completed her residency training in combined internal medicine/pediatrics at the Mount Sinai Hospital, where she also served as chief resident. Dr. Koestler remained at Mount Sinai



Jennifer L. Koestler, M.D., will continue her oversight for all educational programs, including both clerkship and curricular themes as senior associate dean for medical education.

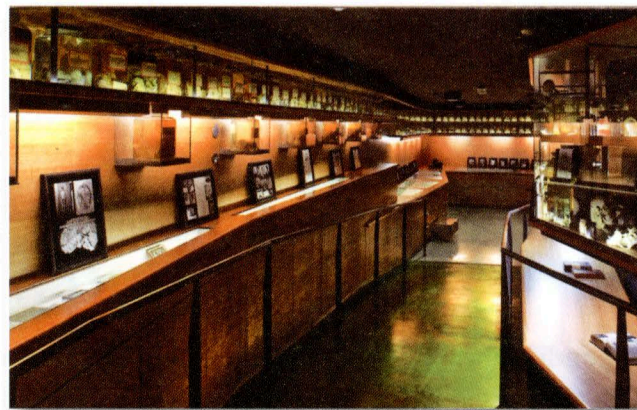
where she served as clerkship director of pediatrics, chair of the clinical curriculum committee and course director for both the Transition to Clerkship and Intercession courses.

Dr. Koestler serves as the faculty advisor for the Gold Humanism Honor Society, a student group at NYMC. She is nationally recognized for her work in medical education, and is a co-author of the national curriculum for both the pediatric clerkship and pediatric sub-internship. She served on

the executive board of the Council on Medical Student Education in Pediatrics and is currently on a test item writing committee for the National Board of Medical Examiners. Her honors include being named a Harvard-Macy Scholar, faculty election to Alpha Omega Alpha, fellow election to the New York Academy of Medicine, a leadership in medical education award at NYMC and several faculty teaching and mentoring awards. ▲

Chancellor hosts excursion to the Cushing Center

Faculty and students joined Edward C. Halperin, M.D., M.A., chancellor and chief executive officer, on an outing to the Cushing Center of the Harvey Cushing and John Hay Whitney Medical Library at Yale University in May. A library docent led participants on a tour that offered insight into the life and work



of American neurosurgeon, Harvey Williams Cushing, M.D. Cushing, who is considered the pioneer of brain surgery, was the first person to describe Cushing's syndrome. Visitors observed the Cushing Brain Tumor registry, an archival collection of more than 2,200 case studies including human brain and tumor specimens, microscopic slides, notes, journal excerpts, rare books and more than 15,000 photographic negatives dating from the late 1800s to 1936. ▲

GSBMS Celebrates Golden Anniversary with a Symposium

The Graduate School of Basic Medical Sciences is celebrating its 50th anniversary with a special symposium, "Launching Science Careers for 50 Years," on Thursday, October 3, 2013. The day will feature the Inaugural Gabor Kaley, Ph.D., Memorial Lecture, to be given by David G. Harrison, M.D., the Betty and Jack Bailey Professor of Medicine and Pharmacology at Vanderbilt University. The program will include scientific presentations by renowned visiting lecturers, poster presentations by Ph.D. candidates and postdoctoral fellows, and a panel discussion, "The Promise of Translational Medicine of Mice and Men." The day will culminate with a reception and banquet. Check your email for more details or visit www.nymc.edu/GSBMS/celebrate.

Two alumni and a faculty member will be honored at this year's Founder's Dinner

A world-renowned Mayo Clinic physician and scientist who has made giant leaps in the study of liver disease. The only physician in the 188-member Maryland legislature. A beloved physiology professor and immediate past president of the faculty senate. What do they have in common? All three will be honored at the College's Founder's Dinner, to be held on October 20 at the Glen Island Harbour Club in New Rochelle, N.Y., overlooking the Long Island Sound. This year's presenting sponsor of the Founder's Dinner is the Children's and Women's Physicians of Westchester, LLP (CWPW).

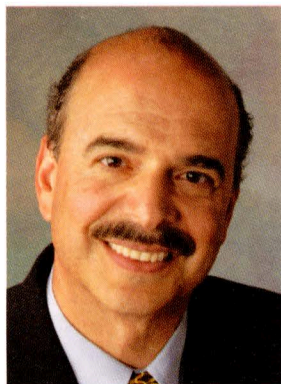
The honorees were selected from nominations made by alumni, faculty, students and employees, who submitted names of their peers for consideration. An advisory committee selected three distinguished recipients for the awards to be presented at the annual fundraising gala.



Nicholas F. LaRusso, M.D. '69, William Cullen Bryant Award

This year's William Cullen Bryant Award will be bestowed upon Nicholas F. LaRusso, M.D. '69, the Charles H. Weinman Endowed Professor of Medicine, Distinguished Investigator of the Mayo Foundation, and medical director of the Mayo Clinic for connected Care at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. The award recognizes individuals who, in the tradition of the College's founder, William Cullen Bryant, demonstrate outstanding leadership in health care, science, education, business, or the arts. Dr. LaRusso has made seminal contributions to the clinical and basic understanding the cholangiocyte, the epithelial cell that lines the bile ducts in the liver, and its role in the cholangiopathies, a group of serious and often life-threatening liver diseases in which the cholangiocyte is the principal target of a variety of pathologic processes. He established the field of cholangiocyte biology, even coining the term cholangiocyte, which is now included in *Steadman's Medical Dictionary*.

"Nick has brought great honor to NYMC and is most appreciative of the education he received as the foundation for his medical career," wrote nominator Richard J. Macchia, M.D., '69, of the Department of Urology at the Cleveland Clinic. Dr. Macchia noted that under Dr. LaRusso's direction, his Mayo Clinic's Department of Medicine rose to become one of the top 10 NIH-funded departments of medicine in the nation in 2009.

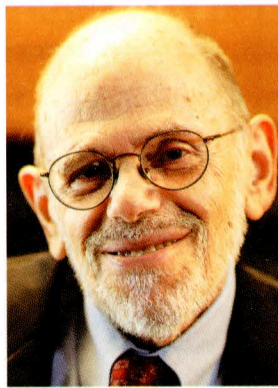


Dan Morhaim, M.D. '75, Jackson E. Spears Community Service Award

This year's Jackson E. Spears Community Service award will be given to Dan Morhaim, M.D. '75. The award, which honors the late Jackson E. Spears, who served as a member of the College's Board of Trustees from 1943 to 2003, is bestowed upon individuals or organizations who have demonstrated exceptional service and commitment to their communities. Dr. Morhaim is the only physician in the 188-member General Assembly of the Maryland House of Delegates. He has been a leader in legislation concerning health care, the environment, and streamlining government operations and is the author of *The Better End: Surviving (and Dying) on Your Own Terms in Today's Modern Medical World*. His distinguished career spans decades of clinical medicine and public policy. He practices emergency and internal medicine when the legislature is not in session, and served as chair of the Department Emergency Medicine at a large community teaching hospital while building a 90-physician, 6-hospital group practice. A member of the faculty in the Department of Health Policy and Management of the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, he has led the way on numerous initiatives to promote public health and the practice of medicine in Maryland.

Dr. Morhaim's nominator and former classmate Michael Auerbach, M.D. '75, wrote, "After years of successfully establishing his group as one of the

premier emergency departments in Baltimore, he was drawn increasingly to community service, informed largely by his clinical experience and observing the conditions and socioeconomic factors which bring people to the ER. As a member of Maryland's General Assembly, he has led the way on numerous initiatives that promote public health and the practice of medicine in our state, as well as working on a wide variety of other issues. His commitment—combining clinical practice, politics, public health, business, and academics—is unique, and he serves as a role model to many."



Norman Levine, Ph.D., Distinguished Service Award

The Distinguished Service Award will be presented to Norman Levine, Ph.D., professor of physiology and immediate past president of the Faculty Senate at New York Medical College. The Distinguished Service Award is bestowed upon members of the faculty, staff, administration, and voluntary leadership who have helped advance the College's mission of education and research through their service, commitment and expert ability. In addition, the award honors individuals whose careers and contributions to health care, science, and their communities have profoundly impacted the practice of medicine and have added immeasurable prestige to the College. Dr. Levine joined the faculty in 1973 and served as president of the senate from 1985 to 1987 and from 1991 to July 1, 2013. His research focuses on renal and reproductive physiology and maintenance of the ionic milieu of cells in a variety of organs. He founded and serves as director of the summer medical physiology course and organizes courses in the Graduate School of Basic Medical Sciences on the topics of renal and membrane physiology, endocrinology, and physiology of reproduction. He is program director of the very successful Accelerated Master's Program, a track that enables students to take selected preclinical medical school courses and complete the requirements for a Master of Science degree in Basic Medical Sciences within one year. He has been chairman and member of numerous faculty committees, including the Executive, Compensation and Promotions Committees, LCME steering committee, and many search committees.

Among those who nominated Dr. Levine for the honor was Thomas H. Hintze, Ph.D., professor and chairman of the Department of Physiology, who wrote a letter signed by 16 faculty members touting their colleague's research background, teaching prowess and diplomacy in handling sensitive matters while serving as president of the faculty senate.

"To this very day Dr. Levine has kept up with current advances in physiology and is our resident expert on issues related to the function of the kidney," wrote Dr. Hintze. "Many of us in our department and individuals outside our institution often seek his counsel on the design and execution of studies that involve renal aspects of a variety of physiological and pathophysiological states. As a teacher he is an exceptional talent, much appreciated by our faculty and considered among the most popular and well-liked teachers in our institution. Members of our faculty, those in the basic sciences and clinical departments alike, seek his advice and consult him in confidence and he handles their problems, especially as these may involve the administration of our institution, with great patience and savoir-faire. All in all, Dr. Levine has served our institution with great loyalty, wisdom and aplomb and is one of a few individuals who has had a lasting beneficial impact on our academic life." ▲

THE FOUNDER'S DINNER

Sunday, October 20

Glen Island Harbour Club

New Rochelle, New York

Reception 5:00 p.m.

Dinner and Dancing 6:30 p.m.

Website: www.nymc.edu/foundersdinner

Email: foundersdinner@nymc.edu

Phone: (914) 594-4550

NYMC welcomes School of Medicine Class of 2017

(continued from page 1)

the students. “And let me tell you, reaching for the stars is not about grades. It’s about innovation and discovery as it relates to improving patient care.”

Edward C. Halperin, M.D., M.A., chancellor and chief executive officer, gave the keynote address, *Idealism, Realism, the Granting of a New Garment and the Problem of Evil*. “If you wish to change the world, then you have a special responsibility to acquaint yourself with the world. The realist, by contrast, has no conscience about being complicit with the

world. Realists say that they have a concern for facts or reality and reject the impractical and visionary,” he told the students. “I want to tell you all a secret about medicine: often it is the realists who are idealists who see. Hold onto your idealism at all costs.”

View the complete Class of 2017 orientation week and white coat ceremony photo gallery at www.nymc.edu/orientation/2013/photos.html. ▲

The School of Medicine Class of 2017 is the first to be seated using the Multiple Mini-Interview (MMI) process implemented by the Office of Admissions last fall. Instead of undergoing the traditional half-hour, one-on-one interview, applicants rotated through eight six-minute scenario based interview stations. Each is designed to assess communication and problem solving skills and other qualities such as empathy and professionalism—characteristics required to be a physician. “The MMIs are one part of our full holistic review of applicants that also considers GPAs and MCAT scores. We are confident we have a strong class on all fronts,” said Robin Camhi Baum, M.S., director of admissions for the School of Medicine. She also noted the positive reception given by both the applicants and the volunteer interviewers. “Although the Class of 2017 just started, we are looking forward to seeing how well they perform during their third-year clinical clerkships. The MMI is a better predictor of just that,” said Ms. Baum.

Here’s a glance at New York Medical College’s School of Medicine Class 2017:

- 12,077 total applications
- 1,268 applicants interviewed
- 200 students registered
- 47% of the class is female
- Students hail from 28 states
- 35% of the class is from New York
- 95 undergraduate schools are represented
- The average age of class members is 24
- 19% of the class is from groups under-represented in medicine



Move In Day



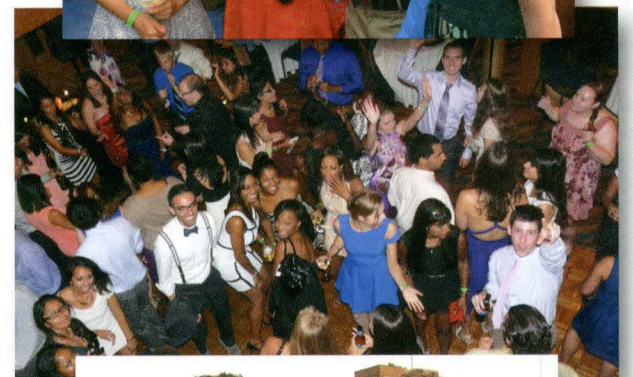
Office of Student and Residential Life Barbecue



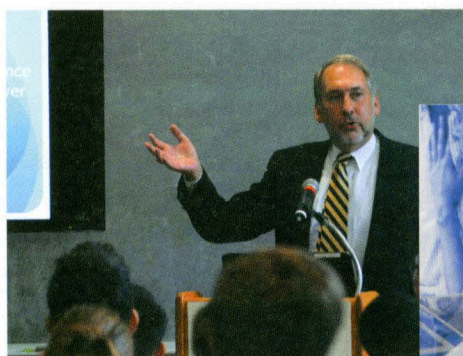
Chancellor’s Welcome Barbecue



Evening Dinner Cruise



New-York Historical Society Excursion: “AIDS in New York: The First Five Years”

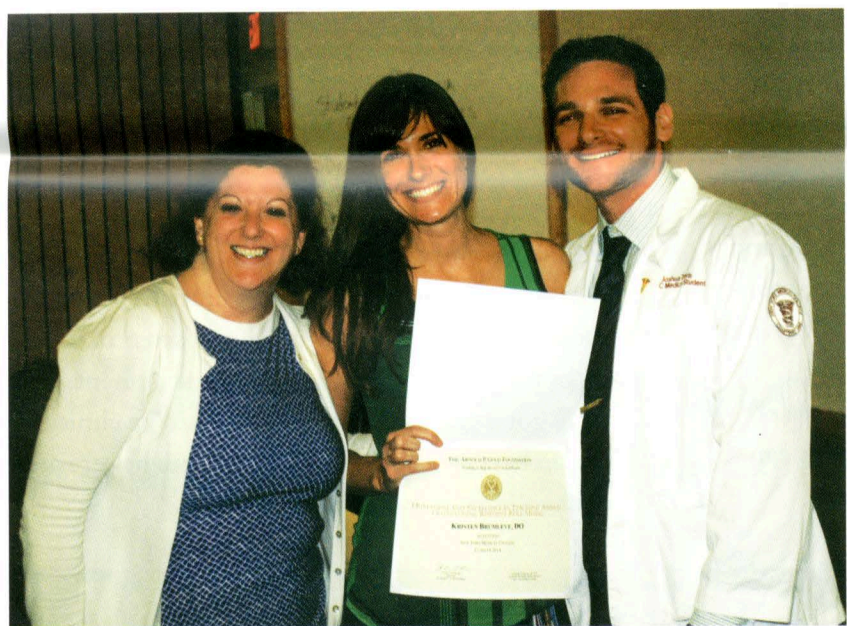


Chancellor Halperin delivers 14th Pediatric Cancer Research Foundation Memorial Lectureship

Edward C. Halperin, M.D., M.A., center, chancellor and chief executive officer, delivered the 14th Pediatric Cancer Research Foundation (PCRF) Memorial Lectureship on July 16. The Memorial Lectureship, established in 1992 by the PCRF, honors the memory of all children who have lost a battle with cancer. Dr. Halperin presented “Three Existential Problems Facing Pediatric Radiation Oncology.” He explored how technological innovation will transform radiation oncology, whether particle therapy is essential to the modern practice of radiation therapy and whether it is possible to train pediatric radiation oncologists. **Mitchell S. Cairo, M.D.**, left, professor of pediatrics and medicine and chief of pediatric hematology, oncology and stem cell transplantation at Westchester Medical Center, and PCRF President **Jeffrey A. Dankberg**, presented Dr. Halperin with a plaque. Dr. Cairo’s research at the College in cancer genetics, tumor immunology, transplantation biology, stem cell biology and regenerative medicine is supported by the PCRF, an independent, nonprofit organization, dedicated to funding leading-edge pediatric cancer research nationwide. ▲



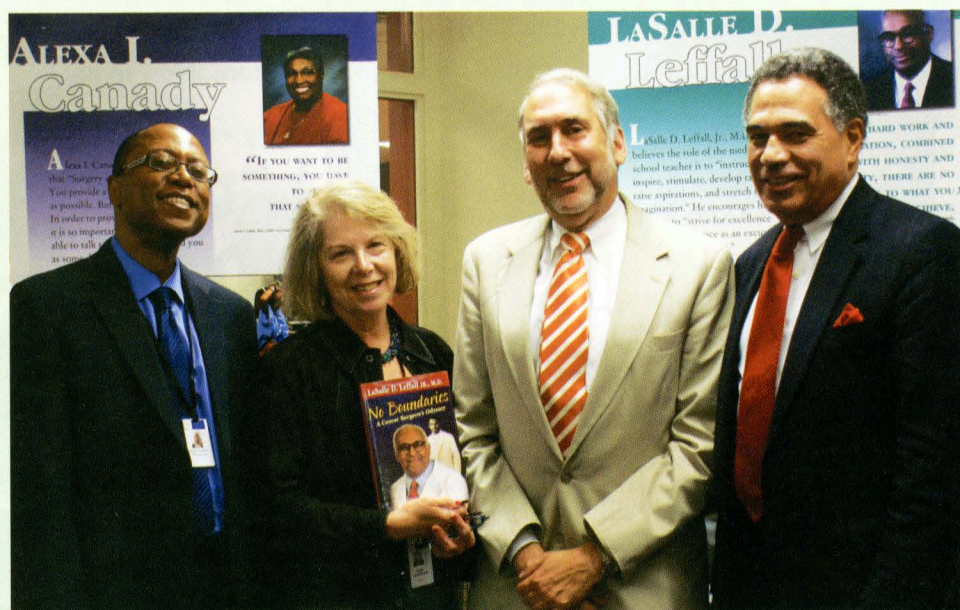
Class of 2015 heads off for clinical rotations



A week of activities in early July helped prepare the Class of 2015 to transition from two years of classroom study to the real world of third-year clerkships. The Student-Clinician Ceremony, held on July 3 in Nevins Auditorium, gave students a chance to think about the challenges ahead, such as the imperative to provide humanistic care to patients, even while being pressed to demonstrate high standards of skill performance. The ceremony was created by the Gold Humanism Honor Society (GHHS) to provide guidance, information and support to medical students beginning their clerkships. Each member of the class was presented with a booklet containing wisdom and advice from the Class of 2014, including personal anecdotes and tips on surviving and thriving in this new chapter of their medical education. **Jennifer L. Koestler, M.D.**, left, senior associate dean for medical education and GHHS faculty advisor, and fourth-year medical student **Joshua Davis**, right, presented **Kristen Brumleve, D.O.**, a pediatric resident at Maria Fareri Children’s Hospital at Westchester Medical Center, with a Humanism and Excellence in Teaching Award for exhibiting strong teaching skills and serving as a role model for compassionate relationship-centered care. ▲

HSL hosts NLM exhibit opening reception

On June 25, the Health Sciences Library (HSL) hosted an opening reception for the National Library of Medicine traveling exhibit, *Opening Doors: Contemporary African American Academic Surgeons*, on display through September 4. The exhibit celebrates the contributions of African American academic surgeons to medicine and medical education and highlights the lives of four pioneers: Alexa I. Canady, M.D., the first African American pediatric neurosurgeon; LaSalle D. Leffall Jr., M.D., a cancer surgeon who became the first African American President of the American College of Surgeons and of the American Cancer Society; Claude H. Organ Jr., M.D., a general surgeon and the first African American to chair a department of surgery at a predominantly white medical school in Omaha, Nebraska; and Rosalyn P. Scott, M.D., the first African American woman cardiothoracic surgeon. On hand for the event were, from left: **Montgomery Douglas, M.D.**, associate professor and chairman of the Department of Family and Community Medicine and associate dean for diversity and inclusion; **Diana J. Cunningham, M.L.S., M.P.H. ’00**, associate dean and the Lillian Hetrick Huber Health Sciences Library Director; **Edward C. Halperin, M.D., M.A.**, chancellor and chief executive officer; and **Howard Blanchette, M.D.**, professor and chairman of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. Dr. Halperin helped bring the exhibit to life by recounting stories from his own experiences with some of the subjects and sharing the history of African American medicine in the United States. ▲



Student summer research on Lyme disease leads to publication

Five medical students in the Class of 2015 who spent last summer working in the lab of internationally known Lyme disease expert Gary P. Wormser, M.D., director of the Division of Infectious Diseases, published an article earlier this year in *PLOS ONE*, an international, peer-reviewed, open-access, online publication.

The study, “Gender Disparity between Cutaneous and Non-Cutaneous Manifestations of Lyme Borreliosis,” published on May 30, included among its authors medical students Michael Longo, Sandeep Soman, Kanthi Dhaduvai, Omosalewa Adenikinju, and Yodit Tefera and Dr. Wormser.

Students obtained data from publications about Lyme disease patients in Europe and in the United States who had different clinical manifestations of this infection. The students sought to determine if the ratio of males to females among patients with Lyme disease varied according to the particular clinical manifestation. The manifestations of Lyme disease that were evaluated included the skin lesion erythema migrans, which occurs early during infection, and the skin lesion acrodermatitis chronica atrophicans (ACA), which is a late manifestation and seen primarily in Europe. Lyme arthritis and various neurological problems known as Lyme neuroborreliosis (LNB) were also evaluated.

Dr. Wormser, who is professor of medicine and vice chairman of the Department of Medicine, called the findings “provocative.” He explained that the students’ comprehensive literature review helped establish and reinforce the hypothesis that majority of patients in Europe with skin manifestations of Lyme disease are women, whereas the majority of patients with Lyme arthritis or neurologic Lyme disease are men.

“In the subsequent article written with the medical students, this hypothesis was proven to

be correct based on new data provided by colleagues in Slovenia,” said Dr. Wormser. “The CDC also assisted in the data analysis. Now we have to figure out why.”

PLOS ONE reports on primary research from any discipline within science and medicine. All submissions go through an internal and external pre-publication peer review, but are not excluded on the basis of lack of perceived importance or adherence to a scientific field. The online platform employs a “publish first, judge later” methodology, with post-publication user discussion and rating features. The editors verify whether experiments and data analysis were conducted rigorously, and then leave it to the scientific community to ascertain importance, post publication, through debate and comment.

“...the students’ comprehensive literature review helped establish and reinforce the hypothesis that majority of patients in Europe with skin manifestations of Lyme disease are women, whereas the majority of patients with Lyme arthritis or neurologic Lyme disease are men.”

— Gary P. Wormser, M.D.

Dr. Wormser called it “a real joy” to work with medical students who have contributed greatly to the productivity of his research in infectious diseases. Summer research opportunities offer medical students an opportunity to experience hypothesis-driven clinical and translational research. It is effective as a pipeline for students who may pursue further research training and more broadly embrace the career of physician-scientist, according to Dr. Wormser. “By giving medical students the chance to conduct independent research under the direction of established scientists, summer programs can sometimes lead to publication,” he said.

Fourth-year medical student Michael Longo said he particularly enjoyed the patient interaction involved in the research. “We took histories, took vital signs and helped enroll patients into our current research studies,” he said. “We were taught how to draw blood and do an EKG, and we learned a lot about Lyme disease and other diseases carried by ticks. It was definitely a worthwhile experience because it had a little bit of everything—patient interaction, research, and learning about Lyme disease.”

Sandeep Soman noted that working in the Lyme clinic was a fantastic way to get hands-on patient experience at the clinic. “I learned a lot about clinical studies, an area to which I had not really been exposed,” he said.

Kanthi Dhaduvai said she would definitely recommend a summer research opportunity to other students. “Our mentor, Dr. Wormser, was very welcoming and encouraged us to dig deeper in our research, especially regarding the correlations between Lyme manifestations and gender. By the end of my time there, I felt confident in my knowledge about Lyme disease, how to run an EKG, and how to perform venipuncture.”

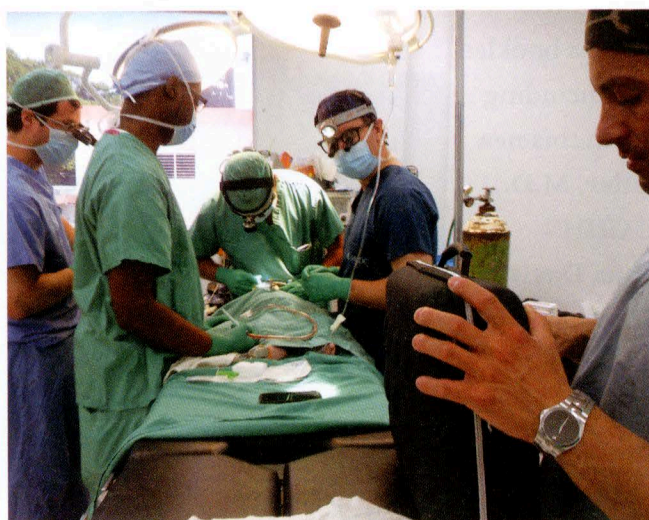
“My research experience helped me become competent in the clinical skills that will help me for the rest of my career, such as phlebotomy, interviewing patients, and taking accurate blood pressure. Even more important, I learned how to review and understand peer-edited journals on scholarly literature,” said Omosalewa Adenikinju. “This research opportunity was unique in that it provided us a chance to fuse clinical medicine with multiple ongoing research projects. Dr. Wormser allowed us the opportunity to spearhead new projects, giving us a sense of accountability, responsibility and excitement. We truly got a grasp of what it felt like to be clinical researchers. The balance between patient care and data collection was perfect.” ▲

Oral and maxillofacial surgery team returns to D.R. for sixth humanitarian mission

It wasn’t the first time Jay P. Goldsmith, D.M.D., associate professor of clinical dental medicine, director of the oral and maxillofacial surgery (OMFS) residency program and chief of the Division of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at Metropolitan Hospital Center, had brought a team to Moca, Dominican Republic to perform cleft lip and palate repair surgery. In May, after assembling the team over the winter months, he collected supplies and instruments and arranged for travel and accommodations. Now in its sixth year, the routine has gotten easier—but is no less rewarding.

Upon arrival the team was pleased to find the government hospital had been upgraded since their last visit. The operating rooms were freshly painted, there were new floor coverings, more sophisticated anesthesia equipment, efficient air conditioning and a post-anesthesia recovery room that the team had created on their previous visit. The group was also happy to see the familiar faces of other volunteers from Puerto Rico, Santo Domingo and Venezuela, with whom they had worked on earlier missions.

Accompanying Dr. Goldsmith were third-year OMFS residents Cameron Lewis, D.D.S., and Greg Weitzman, D.D.S.; third-year anesthesiology resident, Kyle D. Marshal, M.D.; Jose Arias, D.O., an anesthesiology residency program graduate; Anthony Saviri, M.D., assistant professor of anesthesiology; Tae Ho Kim, M.D., assistant professor of surgery; Jordan Jacobs, M.D., title; and Scott Varland, D.M.D., a graduate of the OMFS residency program. Tessa Keimes-Kim, coordinator, and Ketty Caso, residency program administrator, coordinated and translated for the group.



“I know our work in Moca has a lasting effect on our residents. Without question it makes them better people and better doctors,” Dr. Goldsmith said. “It is truly a team effort and we all play an important role in teaching our residents and treating the young patients who desperately need our help.” ▲

Members of the oral and maxillofacial team perform cleft palate surgery on a pediatric patient in Moca.

SHSP becomes founding member of the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health

On August 1, public health schools and programs accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) joined together under the umbrella of a new entity called the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH). The New York Medical College School of Health Sciences and Practice (SHSP) is one of the original founding members of the new association.



Membership in ASPPH will give SHSP students and graduates access to many awards, grants and internships previously available only to students at public health schools. The organization will work closely with federal agencies within the United States and internationally, with state and local public health departments, and with the U.S. Congress to offer a variety of fellowships and internships through graduate training programs.

"We are proud to be a founding member of this new association," said Robert W. Amler, M.D., dean of the School of Health Sciences and Practice and vice president of government affairs. "NYMC will be fully engaged as one of the strongest public health programs in the country."

Considered an historic moment in public health education, the new association will strengthen public health education, research and teaching, CEPH leaders say. There are 92 CEPH-accredited public health programs in the country and 50 accredited public health schools. Among the founding members, along with NYMC, are M.P.H. programs at Brown University, Dartmouth, New York University, University of California, Davis, University of Pennsylvania, University of Virginia, Vanderbilt University and Washington University in St. Louis.

The ASPPH replaces the Association of Schools of Public Health (ASPH), which represented 50 CEPH-accredited public health schools and eight associate members. The new organization represents both schools and programs of public health. The members will remain closely involved as new branding tools and the governance structure are developed. A celebration to welcome all members will be held at the first annual meeting in Boston in November. All faculty and staff of the CEPH-accredited schools and programs of public health are invited to join.

"By working together, programs and schools can create a greater collective impact through collaborative research, education and practice," said John Finnegan, Ph.D., chair of the ASPPH

board of directors and dean of the University of Minnesota School of Public Health.

CEPH is an independent agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as the accrediting body for public health schools and programs. Accreditation is a rigorous peer-review process designed to assure quality education and training. The accreditation "seal of approval" means graduates of that school or program are well-prepared to meet the demands of the 21st-century workforce.

"NYMC will be fully engaged as one of the strongest public health programs in the country."

— Robert W. Amler, M.D.

The decision to create a new association came after a two-year "listening campaign" that included focus groups and in-depth conversations with representatives of schools and programs, including NYMC. "It is clear they have much in common and will benefit by working closely together," said board chairman Dr. Finnegan. "With the new membership of both CEPH-accredited schools and programs, we will be better able to deliver on our promise to be trusted advisors to our public health partners." ▲

College shows appreciation for preceptors and faculty

The Office of Medical Education hosted its annual Preceptor and Faculty Recognition Awards Banquet on June 12 at Abigail Kirsch at Tappan Hill. The evening is traditionally dedicated to scores of physicians who volunteer many hours of their time to teach medical students such skills as history taking and the physical exam in a variety of settings. Each year the College also recognizes faculty who go above and beyond in their roles as small group leaders, course and clerkship directors and members of educational committees. This year's banquet honored more than 40 preceptors who were celebrating up to 30 years of service in the program. Throughout the evening, student reflections on the value of their experiences and how much they appreciated the opportunity and selfless service of their preceptors were shared with the audience.

Jennifer L. Koestler, M.D., senior associate dean for medical education, welcomed the guests and introduced Chancellor and Chief Executive Officer Edward C. Halperin, M.D., M.A., who gave the keynote speech. Sally Schwab, Ph.D., assistant professor of medicine and director, primary care faculty development and curriculum, gave a brief history of the College's foundations of clinical medicine program. Guests also were entertained by the Arrhythmias, the medical student a cappella group.

"The foundations of clinical medicine courses, known as Introduction to Primary Care for the first 25 years, have gone through many changes. IPC began as a course funded by a Robert Wood Johnson grant to teach primary care medicine to first-year medical students. Preceptors welcomed students into their practice to only shadow them," Dr. Schwab said. "Fast forward to now: Following a national trend, students are now expected to learn not only relationship building skills; history taking and communication skills, but also basic physical exam skills starting in the first year of medical school." ▲



Javier Lugo, M.D., clinical associate professor of pediatrics, and Bella Pace, M.D., assistant professor family and community medicine, were recognized for serving as preceptors for 25 and 20 years, respectively.



Jennifer L. Koestler, M.D., right, senior associate dean for medical education, congratulated Ana Paula Machado, M.D., clinical assistant professor of pediatrics, on her outstanding role model award from the Office of Medical Education.

NEWSWORTHY

Suggestions for story ideas are always welcome. Stories can be about research, curriculum or programs of study, unique or interesting personal achievements, growing trends or patient care with an academic focus.

Please email your comments and inquiries to lori_perrault@nymc.edu.

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Chancellor Halperin unveils historical marker at Sunshine Cottage



Members of the College community gathered on a sunny afternoon in late July outside the Sunshine Cottage Administration Building for the unveiling of a new historical marker outside the front entrance. **Edward C. Halperin, M.D., M.A.**, (at podium in photo inset), chancellor and chief executive officer, shared the building's historical origins as a children's tuberculosis hospital. The name, he explained, symbolizes the health, happiness and a treatment regimen of rest, fresh air and sunshine—the prevailing medical wisdom in those days before the discovery of antibiotics. Visitors to the building can read about the decorative details of the building and its surrounding fence, all designed to brighten the spirits of the young patients and reminding all visitors of the College's rich history and longstanding commitment to its core values of care and compassion. When it was time to unveil the marker, Dr. Halperin called upon faculty members in the audience with the longest years of service to NYMC. Attending to the honors were **Mario A. Inchiosa, Ph.D.**, left, professor of pharmacology, and **Robert G. Lerner, M.D.**, professor of medicine and of pathology, vice chairman of the Department of Medicine and chief of hematology at Westchester Medical Center, each with more than 45 years of service. ▲

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