Alzheimer’s Disease and Memory Disorders: Vaccines and Earlier Diagnosis Hold Promise

An estimated 5.3 million people in the United States are living with Alzheimer’s disease, a number that is expected to double over the next several decades due to the aging baby boomer population. Despite the staggering statistics, it is an exciting time in Alzheimer’s research. Carol Lippa, M.D., director of the Memory Disorders Program, is among an elite national group of investigators participating in clinical trials for Alzheimer’s vaccines (for immunotherapy). These studies evaluate and monitor the progress of patients being administered therapeutic antibodies that reduce brain levels of beta-amyloid, an abnormal protein associated with Alzheimer’s disease.

In addition to vaccine development, memory disorders research focuses on ways to better understand the underlying mechanisms in Alzheimer’s and other dementias. Rational therapies to prevent these diseases or slow their progression are the long-term goal. In parallel, better biomarkers to enable diagnosis at an earlier point are crucial. More sensitive and specific neuroimaging and biochemical studies to distinguish normal aging from Alzheimer’s, frontotemporal dementia and the Lewy body dementias will be critical, said Lippa.

Neuropsychologist David Libon, Ph.D., provides evaluations of patients with Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias, and has a number of active research grants. He is interested in developing better cognitive tests to distinguish between the various forms of dementias and mild cognitive impairment.

“Some people think that you don’t need to do much to diagnose dementia, and when you do, it’s most likely to be Alzheimer’s disease,” he said. “I think the situation is much more complex and much more nuanced.”

For example, epidemiological studies show that the risk factors for vascular disease – high cholesterol and type 2 diabetes – are the same as for Alzheimer’s. How do vascular factors interact with the process for Alzheimer’s? One type of neuropathology may be influencing the other. “We need to start looking at cognitive functioning by age 50 or 55,” Libon said. “If there is a link between vascular disease and Alzheimer’s disease, we could treat those factors 20 years before Alzheimer’s would be diagnosed.”

Indeed, Dr. Lippa noted that as public awareness focuses more on cognition, they are seeing patients in the Drexel Memory Disorders Program at these earlier ages. “Regardless of the cause,” she said, “our focus on maintaining cognitive health starts with assessment of the at-risk person or those with the earliest signs of cognitive change.”
A Changing of the Guard

Having devoted his expertise and energy to our College for the past 13 years, Manny Stamatakis has announced that he will step down as chairman of the Drexel University College of Medicine Board of Trustees effective May 10. Stanley Silverman, who has served on the Drexel University board for 11 years and on the College of Medicine board for four years, will succeed him. Manny will remain a trustee.

Manny became chairman of the College of Medicine in 1998 when Drexel rescued MCP Hahnemann University from the bankrupt Allegheny health system. In fact, were it not for Manny, and the vision he shared with Taki Papadakis at that time, there would be no medical school. Under his leadership, the College was restored to financial health and has prospered, with growth in all of our missions.

Today, our College is an important regional and national resource. During Manny’s tenure, the number of applications to our medical student class has risen dramatically. We have launched a dozen new graduate programs – some the first of their kind in the country.

We have also seen significant growth in our research and clinical enterprises. The College of Medicine accounts for about 40 percent of Drexel University’s entire research funding. Our clinical practices have expanded, with the Convenient Care Center at Liberty Place and new offices in Rittenhouse Square, Manayunk, and South Jersey. We have purchased the buildings we used to lease at 1427 Vine and 219 North Broad, and built two state-of-the-art additions at our Queen Lane Campus, including a cutting-edge medical simulation center.

Manny has been extremely generous to the College, establishing the Manuel N. Stamatakis Medical Education Scholarship Fund to support talented students with financial hardship. From the beginning, he has also co-chaired our Black Tie White Coat Ball, raising money for medical research. Manny received an honorary degree from Drexel University in 2005 and was the first recipient of the Dean’s Medal of Special Recognition from the College of Medicine in 2010. He will be an honoree at our Black Tie White Coat Ball this October.

Drexel University College of Medicine owes an enormous debt of gratitude to Manny, and I am sure the faculty and staff join me in appreciation and thanks.

Stanley Silverman, our chairman-elect, has been a highly supportive, knowledgeable and valued trustee for the College of Medicine. An alumnus of Drexel University, with an undergraduate degree in chemical engineering and a Drexel MBA, he chairs the University board’s finance committee and sits on the advisory board of Drexel’s LeBow College of Business. We congratulate and thank him for accepting the position of chair of the Board of Trustees of Drexel University College of Medicine and look forward to his leadership and continued support in the years to come.

Dean’s Office: 215-762-3500
Since 1993, the second-year medical students have banished the winter doldrums by organizing med students, graduate students and faculty in the extraordinary talent show known as the Pediatric AIDS Benefit Concert. The money raised goes to the pediatric AIDS program at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children, helping to finance the services of a dietitian and a child-life specialist and providing emergency funds for affected families who need assistance with transportation and other expenses. In 2011, about 500 people attended, and the event raised more than $29,000, bringing to $425,000 the total collected since the first concert.
Research Focus: Tissue Engineering May Lead to Hybrid Hydrogels to Repair Heart Damage

An advanced tissue-engineering concept may lead to a new class of injectable, biologically active hydrogels to repair heart muscle damage caused by heart attacks. A hydrogel consists of long-chain molecules that have entrapped many times their weight in water. Tissue-engineering strategies for replacing damaged heart tissue focus on new cells or bioactive materials.

The study is a collaboration between biophysicists, biomedical engineers and cardiac surgeons at the College of Medicine; Drexel’s School of Biomedical Engineering, Science & Health Systems; and the University of Pennsylvania. The researchers examined how a new material designed by a biotechnology company may optimize the response of heart muscle cells (myocytes) by growing them with proteins like those in the extracellular matrix, an interlocking mesh of fibrous proteins and connective tissues that provide support for cells.

This work by J. Yasha Kresh, Ph.D., professor and research director, and Andrew S. Wechsler, M.D., professor, both in the Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery; Victor Lin, M.S.; Anant Chopra, doctoral student in the School of Biomedical Engineering, Science & Health Systems; and colleagues at Glycosan Biosystems and the University of Pennsylvania was the subject of a platform presentation “Engineered Extracellular Matrix Bioactivity and Mechanics Modulate Cardiac Myocyte Phenotype,” by Chopra at the American Heart Association Scientific Sessions held November 13-17, 2010, in Chicago. Because of their research Kresh was invited to participate in the American Heart Association-AHA Research Roundtable: What’s Next in Cardiovascular Disease Research on November 17.

Erika Aaron, MSN, director of women’s services, Division of Infectious Diseases and HIV Medicine; and HIV Medicine; and a colleague published “A Collaborative HIV Prevention and Education Initiative in a Faith-based Setting” in the Journal of the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care, March/April 2011.

Submissions for Presentations & Publications and Grants & Kudos may now be emailed directly to NewsPager@drexelmed.edu. Please be sure to include all the relevant information, including full name, title, and department for any College of Medicine or University colleagues involved. For Grants & Kudos, please use the short entries on page 6 of this issue as a model. Thank you.


Donald P. Goldsmith M.D., professor of pediatrics, presented “The Role of Montelukast in the Management of Hyperimmunoglobulinemia D with Periodic Fever Syndrome (HIDS)” at the 6th annual Autoinflammation Congress held September 2-6, 2010 in Amsterdam. He is chief of the Section of Rheumatology at St. Christopher’s Hospital for Children.

Goldsmith and Svetlana Lvovich, D.O., assistant professor of pediatrics, presented “FEAR (False ELISA associated rheumatic) Syndrome in Children” at the Annual American College of Rheumatology Meeting, held November 6-11 in Atlanta.

Goldsmith was also among the authors of a presentation at the Annual College of Rheumatology Meeting entitled “The Clinical Significance of a Single MVK Mutation in HIDS.”

J. Yasha Kresh, Ph.D., professor and research director, Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery, is an inventor on a patent granted to Drexel University for “Acoustic Blood Analyzer for Assessing Blood Properties.” The other inventors are Ryszard Lec, Drexel University School of Biomedical Engineering, Science & Health Systems, and David M. Wootton, a former University faculty member.

Wendy J. Gu, a fourth-year medical student, published “Rice and Reason,” discussing the important role of rice in the Chinese American diet and its impact on the rates of type 2 diabetes in this population, in Hektoen International: A Journal of Medical Humanities, Volume 3, Issue 1, January 2011.

Suresh G. Joshi, M.D., Ph.D., assistant professor of surgery, and microbiology and immunology; director of surgical infections research; and adjunct to the A.J. Drexel Plasma Institute; Michelle Paff, 3rd-year medical student; Gary Friedman, Ph.D., Gregory Fridman, Ph.D., and Alexander Fridman, Ph.D., all from the A.J. Drexel Plasma Institute; and Ari Brooks, M.D., associate professor of surgery and director of surgical research, published “Control of Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus aureus in Planktonic Form and Biofilms: A Biocidal Efficacy Study of Nonthermal Dielectric-Barrier Discharge Plasma” in American Journal of Infection Control, Vol. 38, No. 4.

In addition, Joshi, G. Fridman, A. Fridman, and former A.J. Drexel Plasma Institute graduate student Moogega Cooper, Ph.D., published “Biological Responses of Bacillus stratosphericus to Rotating Electrode-Dielectric Barrier Discharge Plasma Treatment” in Journal of Applied Microbiology, Vol. 109, No. 6.

J. Yasha Kresh, Ph.D., professor and research director, Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery, is an inventor on a patent granted to Drexel University for “Acoustic Blood Analyzer for Assessing Blood Properties.” The other inventors are Ryszard Lec, Drexel University School of Biomedical Engineering, Science & Health Systems, and David M. Wootton, a former University faculty member.

Gerald Soslau, Ph.D., Steven Lynch, a medical sciences student, and A.J. Moore, a former graduate student, were included in the poster session of the American Society for Cell Biology national meeting, which was held here in Philadelphia in December. Their poster was entitled “Regulation of Human Platelet Aggregation (AGG) by Matrix Metalloproteinases.”
Greg Botta, a student in the M.D./Ph.D. program, has been selected to attend the Lindau meeting of Nobel Laureates in Lindau, Germany, this summer. He received this distinction after a competitive, three-tiered selection process, first at the university level and then via two additional U.S. and international selection committees. The meeting offers students the opportunity to hear lectures and interact directly with Nobel laureates.

Megan Detloff, Ph.D., a postdoctoral fellow in the laboratory of John Houlé, Ph.D., professor in the Department of Neurobiology & Anatomy, received the Fritz Krauth Memorial Fellowship from the Paralyzed Veterans of America for her research proposal “Role of Exercise-Induced GDNF and Artemin in SCI-Induced Neuropathic Pain” and was recognized at the board of directors meeting on March 25. The Fritz Krauth Memorial Fellowship is awarded to the top-rated spinal cord research fellowship applicant each year.

Florence Gelo, D.Min., NCPsyA, associate professor of family, community and preventive medicine, has been invited to join the editorial board of Chaplaincy Today, the peer-reviewed e-journal of the Association of Professional Chaplains, as an associate editorial board member.

Eugene Hong, M.D., CAQSM, FAAFP, Hamot and Sturgis Endowed Chair of the Department of Family, Community, and Preventive Medicine and chief of the Division of Sports Medicine, is the co-principal investigator for a grant from the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health & Human Development, “Examining the Relationship of Cognitive Impairment and Driving Following Concussion.” Maria Schultheis, Ph.D., of the Drexel University Department of Psychology is the principal investigator.

In addition, Hong has been named a team physician for the US Lacrosse Women’s National Under 19 Team, the pinnacle of international and domestic competition for high school women’s lacrosse players in the United States. The team will travel to Germany in August for the quadrennial world championship.

Agustin Legido, M.D., Ph.D., MBA, professor of pediatrics and neurology, was named chair of the International Affairs Committee of the American Child Neurology Society. Legido is chief of the Section of Neurology at St. Christopher’s Hospital for Children.

David Stein, M.D., associate professor of surgery and chief of the Division of Colorectal Surgery, has been named the 2011 Physician of the Year by the Delaware Valley Chapter of the Crohn’s & Colitis Foundation of America.

Andrew S. Wechsler, M.D., professor of cardiothoracic surgery, received the Edward S. Cooper, M.D. Award from the American Heart Association for his contributions to the advancement of cardiothoracic medicine in the Delaware Valley. He was formally presented with the award at the 2011 Philadelphia Heart Ball on February 12. He served as the Stanley K. Brockman Professor and Chair of the Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery from 1998 until his decision to step down in March.

Demetrius S. & Nayda E. Saris Memorial Award Presented

The second Demetrius S. & Nayda E. Saris Memorial Award was presented to Alexander Schlachterman, M.D., an intern in internal medicine on November 11, 2010. The award is offered annually to an intern or resident at Hahnemann University Hospital to help defray the cost of child care.

Demetrius Saris and Nadya Emanuelli met each other during their first year at Hahnemann Medical College (class of 1950) and were married for 55 years. While completing their medical training at Hahnemann University Hospital, the couple struggled to raise their first two children and afford appropriate child care, while continuing to fulfill their training responsibilities. The Sarises ultimately had six children, three of whom earned medical degrees from Hahnemann University.

Drs. Anne (’76), Steven (’77), and Theresa (’88) Saris created the award in honor of their parents.

To apply for this award, please contact the Office of Graduate Medical Education at 215-762-2618. If you are interested in creating an award or scholarship program, please contact John Zabinski in Institutional Advancement at 215-255-7343.
The Alumni Association’s Nominating Committee has put forth the slate for the year 2011 election period. The names listed below fulfill the Bylaws membership requirements of 24 M.D. graduates and 6 Ph.D. graduates. Receiving no other petitions for elections, the Association’s Executive Board approved the slate and is submitting this current slate to the active Association Membership for approval.

**M.D. Positions**

- Robert V. De Silverio, M.D., HU ‘59
- Joyann A. Kroser, M.D., MCP ’90
- Stephen E. Ladenheim, M.D., MCP ’78
- Madeleine L. Long, M.D., MCP ’80
- Tim A. Manzone, M.D., MCP ’89
- Joseph R. Polito, M.D., HU ’83
- Thomas J. Riordan, M.D., MCP ’93
- David Volpi, M.D., HU ’82

**Ph.D. Positions**

- Stephen C. Leiser, Ph.D. ’05
- John-Paul Vermitsky, Ph.D. ’07
- John-Paul Vermitsky, Ph.D. ’07

Voting will be available to all members on the alumni website: [www.drexelmed.edu/alumni/Association/BoardNominations](http://www.drexelmed.edu/alumni/Association/BoardNominations) beginning March 19 with a voting deadline of May 1. The results of the election will be announced at the annual meeting during Alumni Weekend. Paper ballots can be obtained by calling **1-866-373-9633**.
'50s
Geraldine S. Meanor, M.D., WMC ’58 was listed in New Jersey Monthly’s Top Doctors 2010. A specialist in internal medicine with a particular interest in diagnostics, Meanor practices in Glen Ridge, N.J. and is affiliated with Mountainside Hospital in Montclair, N.J.

'60s
Sam P. Conklin, M.D., HU ’67 and his wife, Betsy, were named Tehachapi Citizens of the Year 2011. Conklin has served thousands of patients in both private practice and as an emergency room physician at Tehachapi Hospital, Tehachapi, Calif. He is also chairman of the board of the Tehachapi Valley Healthcare District.

Timothy T. Cope, M.D., HU ’69 retired after 36 years in a critical access family medicine setting in rural Vermont. He continues to volunteer at the Open Door Clinic, serving uninsured patients. He also volunteers overseas, most recently at the Hillcrest AIDS/TB Center in Durban, South Africa.

'70s
Allen Gabroy, M.D., HU ’71 a general surgeon, was listed in Top Doctors 2010 by Mainline Today. He practices at Suburban Surgical Associates in Ridley Park, Pa., and is affiliated with Crozer-Chester Medical Center in Upland, Pa., and Taylor Hospital in Ridley Park.

Eugene Zenone, M.D., HU ’72; Internal Medicine Residency, HU ’75 a gastroenterologist, was listed in Top Doctors 2010 by Mainline Today. Zenone practices at the Crozer-Chester Medical Center in Upland, Pa.

David Estoff, M.D., HU ’76 retired as a colonel from the U.S. Army in June 2009 and moved to Germany, where he works as a civilian pediatrician in the busiest Army clinic in Grafenwoehr, Bavaria. He had most recently served as residency faculty and chief pediatrician, deputy chief of the department and chief of the pediatric outpatient service at Madigan Army Medical Center in Tacoma, Wash.

He holds the ranks of assistant professor of pediatrics from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences and clinical professor of pediatrics from the University of Washington. He continues to teach in Germany at OME activities.

Kay Cundiff Kerr, M.D., MCP ’77 was named “Best of the Best” in family practice in Top Doctors 2010 by Mainline Today. She practices at the Bryn Mawr College Health Center.

Maureen Litchman, M.D., HU ’78 was recognized as a leader in healthcare by the Wilkes-Barre, Pa., Times Leader in its “Health Care Heroes.” Lichtman practices family medicine at Wyoming Valley Family Medical Practice in Wilkes-Barre. She is a faculty member of the Wyoming Valley Family Medicine Residency Program and The Commonwealth Medical College.

Louise Senesh, M.D., HU ’78 a retired psychiatrist, exhibited her acrylic-based paintings at Orchard Gallery Art and Framing in Bethesda, Md., in an exhibit titled “Brush and Torch.”

Cynthia A. Solomon, M.D., HU ’78 an internist, was recognized as a leader in healthcare by the Wilkes-Barre, Pa., Times Leader in its “Health Care Heroes.” Solomon is on the active staff of Wyoming Valley Health Care in Wilkes-Barre and Geisinger South Wilkes-Barre. She also has an office in Kingston, Pa.

'80s
Henry A. Finn, M.D., HU ’80 was named medical director of the Chicago Center for Orthopedics at Weiss Memorial Hospital in Chicago, where he will lead a team of 25 orthopedic, spine, and sports medicine surgeons. He is the inventor of the Finn Knee System, an orthopedic prosthesis for limb salvage and difficult knee surgeries.

Christine Petti, M.D., MCP ’81; General Surgery Residency, MCP ’86 a plastic surgeon, practices in a private, on-site plastic surgery center, Aesthetic Accents Cosmetic and Laser Surgery Center, in Torrance, Calif., and also has a private medical day spa, Spa Bella, in Torrance. She has appeared three times on the television series The Doctors.

Steven Sonnenberg, M.D., HU ’81 joined Adirondack Medical Center in Saranac Lake, N.Y. He provides outpatient psychiatry services to the Tri-Lakes region through the Colby Center for Psychiatry Outpatient Practice, also in Saranac Lake.

Robert Carr, M.D., HU ’85 who specializes in family practice and geriatrics, is the president of the Connecticut Academy of Family Physicians. He practices at Primary Care of Southbury. Carr has been involved with a plan to move the state of Connecticut towards the “patient-centered medical home” model of care.

Ronald S. Filippi, M.D., HU ’85 was appointed to the Emergency Department medical staff of Westfield Memorial Hospital, located in Westfield, N.Y. He is certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine.

Edward Stanford, M.D., MCP ’85 joined the medical staff at Delta County Memorial Hospital in Delta, Colo., and is seeing new patients at Delta Montrose Women’s Healthcare. He had been a professor of obstetrics and gynecology at the University of Tennessee, Memphis.

Olesh Babiak, M.D., HU ’86 an anesthesiologist, was listed in Top Doctors...
2010 by Mainline Today. He practices at Crozer-Chester Medical Center in Upland, Pa.

Sean Janzer, M.D., HU ’86 a cardiologist, was listed in Top Doctors 2010 by Mainline Today. He practices at Penn Cardiac Care at Huntingdon Valley, located in Bryn Mawr, Pa.

Richard O’Sullivan, M.D., MCP ’88 joined the Grove School in Madison, Conn., a therapeutic, boarding and day school for grades 7 to 12, as a clinical psychiatrist. He previously served as principal psychiatrist for the Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services (DMHAS) Program at the Connecticut Valley Hospital’s Whiting Forensic Division and, most recently, as a principal psychiatrist for DMHAS Western Connecticut Outpatient Mental Health Center.

’90s

Katherine L. Ball, M.D., MCP ’90 was named chief medical information officer for Mountain States Health Alliance of Johnson City, Tenn., as well as chief medical officer for Sycamore Shoals Hospital, Elizabethton, and Johnson County Community Hospital, Mountain City. She previously served as chief medical information officer at Holy Cross Hospital in Silver Springs, Md. She is board certified in emergency medicine and internal medicine.

Margot I. Boigon, M.D., MCP ’90 received the Clinical Practice Award from the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American College of Physicians. Board certified in internal medicine, Boigon practices both hospital-based and ambulatory care medicine at Abington Memorial Hospital in Abington, Pa., where she is a faculty member in the Department of Medicine. She is also an adjunct associate professor of medicine at Temple University School of Medicine.

Louis Boxer, M.D., MCP ’91 was named “Best of the Best” in anesthesiology in Top Doctors 2010 by Mainline Today. Boxer practices at the Chester County Hospital in West Chester, Pa., and he is also the medical director at West Chester’s Turks Head Surgery Center.

Richard Gregory, M.D., HU ’91 joined the Stanford Cardiothoracic Surgery Program at Saint Agnes Medical Center in Fresno, Calif. He is a cardiothoracic surgeon and associate clinical professor in cardiac surgery at Stanford University.

Rigo Mendoza, M.D., HU ’91 joined the Bassin Center for Plastic Surgery, practicing in Tampa and Orlando, Fla. He was featured on Fox 35 News Orlando performing the “Teeny Tummy Tuck,” a minimally invasive procedure that he says can tighten the abdominal area quickly and with much less downtime than a conventional procedure.

Timothy O’Brien, M.D., HU ’92 a general surgeon, has joined MaineGeneral Surgery in Waterville, Maine, and is a member of MaineGeneral Medical Center’s active medical staff.

Amelia Paré, M.D., HU ’92 was elected vice president of the 2011 Allegheny County Medical Society Board. A board-certified plastic surgeon, she is in private practice at Plastic Surgery of Pittsburgh in McMurray, Pa., and is affiliated with several Pittsburgh-area hospitals: Jefferson Medical Center, Washington Hospital, St. Clair Memorial Hospital, and University of Pittsburgh Medical Center.

Todd Stefan, M.D., HU ’92 completed his recertification in vascular surgery through the American Board of Surgery. He is in practice with the Susquehanna Specialists PC in Lewisburg, Pa., and is the medical director of the peripheral vascular lab at Evangelical Community Hospital in Lewisburg.

Susan F. Levine, M.D., MCP ’93 joined the internal medicine staff at the Hospital of Central Connecticut Kensington Primary Care in Kensington, Conn.

Roselle Mezmer, M.D., HU ’93 a cardiologist, was listed in Top Doctors 2010 by Mainline Today. Mezmer’s specialties include cardiovascular disease and nuclear cardiology. She practices at Crozer-Chester Medical Center in Upland, Pa.

Zachary Simpson, M.D., MCP ’95 was the recipient of the first Physician of the Year Award presented by the Lutheran Home Care and Hospice Inc. and LIFE Lutheran Services. He is the medical director for Menno Haven Retirement Communities in Chambersburg, Pa, and is on staff at Chambersburg Hospital.

David Harwitz, M.D., HU ’96 was named to the board of Turning Points for Children, a Philadelphia nonprofit group that provides support and services for families. He is an adult, child and adolescent psychiatrist for the Center for Family Guidance in Marlton, N.J., and is also the medical director of CASTLE Children’s Program in Camden, N.J.

Thomas W. Johnson, M.D., MCP ’96 has joined Wing Memorial Hospital and Medical Centers in Palmer, Mass. A board-certified general surgeon, he performs general, oncologic and minimally invasive surgeries.

Michael Moreno, M.D., HU ’96 authored The 17 Day Diet, a book which details a comprehensive diet plan. He practices family medicine in the San Diego area and is a regular guest on the television series The Doctors.

Kiran K. Rajasenan, M.D., HU ’96 joined Decision Associates of Erie, Pa. Rajasenan is a medical oncologist with the Cancer Center at University of Pittsburgh Medical Center in Wexford, Pa. He is board certified in internal medicine and medical oncology.

James Esbenshade, M.D., HU ’97 has joined the Department of Family Medicine at Doylestown Hospital, Doylestown, Pa., in association with Doylestown & Warrington Family Practice. He is board certified by the American Board of Family Practice.

Susan Sordoni, M.D., MCP ’97 will be honored on April 10, 2011 with the Distinguished Service Award by the Anti-Defamation League of Eastern Pennsylvania/Delaware Region. She founded the Volunteers in Medicine Medical Clinic in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., and has served as chairperson and an active volunteer physician for the clinic.

continued on page 10
John Urzi, M.D., MCP ’98 a physician who specializes in pediatrics and adolescent medicine, and his practice, the Lawrence Park Pediatric Associates, joined the West Chester Medical Group (WESTMED). The office is located in Yonkers, N.Y.

‘00s

Meadlen Charles, M.D., MCPHU ’01 has joined the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Hudson Valley Hospital Center in Cortlandt Manor, N.Y. She is also affiliated with Westchester Medical Practice and has offices in Cortlandt Manor and Putnam Valley, N.Y. She recently completed five years of service in the U.S. Army. She spent several years at Fort Riley, Kansas, and was also deployed to Afghanistan for nearly a year.

Jonathan R. Schiller, M.D. ’02 was appointed pediatric orthopedic surgeon and assistant professor of orthopedic surgery at Brown University. He practices at University Orthopedics in East Greenwich, R.I.

Brett J. Karlik, M.D. ’03 an ophthalmologist, joined the Elk County Eye Clinic as an associate. He will perform surgery at the Elk Regional Health Center and the Regional Ambulatory Surgery Center, both affiliates of the Elk Regional Health System based in St. Marys, Pa.

Jennifer A. Cafardi, M.D. ’04 is an assistant professor of dermatology at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Her niche has been dermatological infectious diseases, and she is the primary dermatology provider at UAB’s HIV clinic. After a medical internship at Brown, she completed a clinical research fellowship and dermatology residency at UAB.

Jacque P. LeBeau, M.D. ’04 joined the medical staff at the Citizens Memorial Healthcare Facial Plastics and Reconstructive Surgery Clinic in Bolivar, Mo. He completed his residency and internship in ear, nose and throat studies at the University of Maryland Medical System.

Erin L. Cooper, M.D. ’05 joined the Dodge Family Care Clinic in Dodge, Neb. Cooper completed a residency in family practice and a fellowship in geriatrics at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

Teneisha C. Davis, M.D. ’05 a family practitioner, was recognized by Hospice Care of South Carolina in honor of National Hospice Month. She practices at Kingstree Medical Practice in Kingstree, S.C.

Nina Cheung, M.D. ’06 an internist, joined the new University Primary Care office in Philadelphia that is affiliated with Hahnemann University Hospital.

Jennifer L. Lewis, M.D., HU ’06 a general internist/hospitalist, will begin a term in 2011 as president of the Washington County (Pa.) Medical Society. Lewis practices at Waterdam Medical Associates in McMurray, Pa., and Canonsburg General Hospital, in Canonsburg, Pa. She also serves as assistant professor of medicine at Allegheny General Hospital.

Jennifer Sock, M.D. ’06 has joined the obstetrics and gynecology practice Deeney and Associates, with offices in the Holy Redeemer Medical Office building in Meadowbrook, Pa.

Abid Ali Fakhri, M.D. ’07 was the 2010 recipient of the Young Alumni Award of the Biology Department at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Fakhri is a fellow in cardiovascular disease at Allegheny General Hospital.

Matthew James Bock, M.D. ’08 will start a pediatric cardiology fellowship in July 2011 at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City. He is currently finishing a residency at Loma Linda Children’s Hospital.

Former Residents and Fellows

Guillermo Elkouss, M.D., Urology Residency, HU ’77 retired December 31, 2010, from practicing urology at Delaware Valley Urology in Marlton, N.J.

Mary Ann Forciea, M.D., Endocrinology Residency, MCP ’82 was elected to the board of trustees of the Visiting Nurse Association of Greater Philadelphia. She is a clinical associate professor of geriatric medicine at the University of Pennsylvania and the director of the Delaware Valley Geriatric Education Center at Penn.

Reid Gentile, M.D., Ob/Gyn Residency, HU ’87 joined the women’s clinic at United Community and Family Services of Norwich, Conn. Gentile had been in private practice in Shelton, Conn., for 20 years.

Carlos Baleeiro, M.D., Internal Medicine Residency, HU ’00 joined Memorial Health Partners in the Pulmonary Medicine Center of Chattanooga, Tenn. Baleeiro is board certified in pulmonary medicine, internal medicine and critical care medicine.

Neeraj Naval, M.D., Neurology Residency ’04 has been appointed director of neuro-critical care at the Johns Hopkins Hospital. He is an assistant professor of neurology and anesthesiology-critical care medicine at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine.

Uri Napchan, M.D., Neurology Residency ’06 joined the staff of Middletown Medical, in Middletown, N.Y., to open the first headache clinic in Orange County. Napchan is board certified in neurology and pain medicine with a subspecialty in headache medicine.

Meghan M. O’Brien, M.D., Internal Medicine Residency ’07; Dermatology Residency ’10 joined Sadick Dermatology in their Manhattan and Great Neck, N.Y., offices. She is board certified in dermatology.

Nicholas Skiadas, M.D., Internal Medicine Residency ’07 a cardiologist, joined the staff at Jennersville Regional Hospital in West Grove, Pa. He completed a cardiovascular fellowship at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center.

Aniruddha Palya, M.D., Nephrology Fellowship ’10 has joined the medical staff of McLaren Regional Medical Center. He sees patients at his office in Flint, Michigan.
In Memoriam

E. Jeanne Andrews, M.D., WMC ’46 November 22, 2010
David N. Bosacco, M.D., HU ’60 December 6, 2010
Vincent A. Burell, M.D., HU ’46 January 23, 2010
John R. Clark, M.D. HU ’59 June 8, 2010*

Elmer R. Dech, M.D., HU ’62 January 28, 2011, of Gardner, Mass., at the age of 74. After earning his medical degree, he served at Warren Air Force Base in Cheyenne, Wyo., before beginning his family practice in Gardner. He was certified in addiction medicine and served as the medical director of the Naukeag Hospital, Ashburnham, Mass. He later moved to Rindge, N.H., and joined the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Clinic in Keene. He retired in 2001 and spent his time volunteering, traveling every year to work with Habitat for Humanity. He is survived by his daughters, Lori Dean and Leanne Dech; his son Kevin; his former wife, Geraldine Fessler; his former wife, Barbara Walker; two stepdaughters, Lynn Aplin and Elizabeth White; and several grandchildren.

Robert G. Deichert, M.D., HU ’65 December 26, 2010
George W. Deitz III, M.D., HU ’45 January 3, 2011
Herman Karl Dimlich, M.D., HU ’58 December 9, 2010
Ester Fiszgop, M.D., WMC ’63 June 25, 2010

Seth M. Fisher, M.D., HU ’48 November 17, 2010, of Mountaintop, Pa., formerly of Villanova, at the age of 85. He completed his residency in anesthesiology at Hahnemann in 1953, after serving two years in the Navy, where he rose to the rank of lieutenant. He joined the Hahnemann faculty, becoming a professor of anesthesiology, and serving as department chair from 1978 to 1981. He retired from Hahnemann in 1994 with the rank of emeritus professor of anesthesiology. The years of care he gave to the police and firemen of the city were recognized by Philadelphia City Council in 2005 with the honorary title “The Policeman’s Anesthesiologist.” He was predeceased by his wife, Ruth (Kit) Fisher. He is survived by his sons, Robert C. Fisher and Seth W. Fisher, M.D., HU ’82.

Lucille Marian Radke Fostvedt, M.D., WMC ’40 January 14, 2011, Palm Springs, Calif., on her 94th birthday. The first female physician in Palm Springs, she was also the first female doctor on staff at Desert Hospital in Palm Springs and at Eisenhower Medical Center in Rancho Mirage, the first female president of the Palm Springs Academy of Medicine, and the second female president of the Riverside County Medical Association. She was the recipient of dozens of local and national awards for her cancer-fighting work and other humanitarian accomplishments. She was predeceased by her daughter Siri. She is survived by her sons, Karsten and Craig, and daughter Andrea, and 10 grandchildren.

James C. Gehris, M.D., HU ’54 January 4, 2011
Libby-Claire Greenberg, M.D., WMC ’68 January 3, 2010
Joan Paul Gross, M.D., WMC ’61 January 3, 2010
Bernard F. Hansen, M.D., HU ’48 November 26, 2010
Emma Hayatama, M.D., WMC ’45 January 6, 2011
Peter A. Keblish, Jr., M.D., HU ’62 January 25, 2011
Dorothy Ellen Klein, M.D., WMC ’54 April 30, 2010
Michael A. Linshaw, M.D., HU ’66 December 31, 2010
Martha Jane Matjasko-Chiu, M.D., WMC ’68 January 10, 2011
Mark Edward Miller, Ph.D., MCP ’93 November 28, 2010

Lynn Cobb Montgomery, M.D., Ph.D., MCP ’83 December 27, 2010, Philadelphia, at the age of 61. A practicing psychiatrist, he was integrally involved in The Hunger Project, EnlightenNext, Landmark Education, and The Pachamama Alliance. He is survived by his wife, Dolores (Dee) Montgomery, his mother, Bea S. Montgomery, his daughter, Samantha D. Montgomery, and his two stepchildren, Joseph L. Brogan and Lisa Brogan Schafer.

Joanna Pecman, M.D., WMC ’40 February 5, 2011
Ralph A. Reilly, M.D., HU ’47 September 4, 2010
Louise Marie Reiss, M.D., WMC ’45 January 1, 2011
Stanley J. Yamulla, M.D., HU ’44 December 9, 2010

*We regret that an obituary for Dr. Clark in the November/December NewsPager incorrectly identified his class year. Many thanks to the classmate who caught our error.
Ph.D. Mentoring Benefits Students, Advances Research

When Rani Vasudeva began her doctoral studies at Drexel University College of Medicine in 2004, she wanted to focus on the neurobiology of anxiety disorders. But unlike a medical student, she didn’t have a prescribed four-year curriculum to achieve this goal. Instead, a doctoral student faces the daunting task of developing an original research project and plan for a doctoral thesis. With many research opportunities from which to choose and important decisions to make, the challenge might have seemed overwhelming were it not for the time-honored College tradition of faculty mentoring.

During her first two years of study, Vasudeva rotated through several research labs, including the lab of Barry Waterhouse, Ph.D., vice dean for Biomedical Graduate & Postgraduate Studies and professor in the Department of Neurobiology & Anatomy. The primary focus of the Waterhouse lab is to understand the neurobiology of the norepinephrine and serotonin systems of the brain as they relate to the sensory signal processing capabilities of an organism. Vasudeva found his research fascinating, and at the beginning of the second year, she requested to continue her doctoral studies in his lab with him as her mentor. Waterhouse agreed and the two entered into an official mentoring agreement.

Each of the College’s approximately 160 doctoral students goes through a similar process, sampling labs in rotations during the first two years of training, then requesting a specific faculty member to serve as their mentor.

The faculty mentor’s commitment to the student is threefold – it includes scientific mentoring, financial support and career counseling. Mentors help students to develop a thesis and related research projects. They oversee the students’ work and advise them throughout their studies toward the ultimate goal: publication of their research in a professional journal.

As with most institutions, the College supports doctoral students for the first two years with tuition scholarship, health insurance, and a stipend for living expenses. The mentor agrees to support the student financially through grants and other funding sources for the remaining years of doctoral studies.

In addition, mentors advise students on career choices and professional development. “We teach them skills that they won’t learn in the lab or the classroom, such as how to network with other senior investigators, funding agencies and peers in other labs,” said Waterhouse. “We show them how to get the most out of attending a professional meeting, and help them weigh the pros and cons of career choices such as teaching at the undergraduate level, conducting research in biotech or the pharmaceutical industry, or working for a regulatory agency.”

A unique aspect of mentoring at the College is a series of workshops on career building skills developed by Rick Rest, Ph.D., director of professional development for Biomedical Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies. Originally created five years ago for post-doc fellows, the program is now offered to senior doctoral students as well. Workshop topics range from grant writing, laboratory management and interviewing for a professional position to balancing career and family while pursuing professional goals. “We also invite alumni to return to campus and describe their professional responsibilities as well as career opportunities in their fields,” Waterhouse noted.

In addition to helping doctoral students, mentoring relationships also benefit the mentor and the College, according to Waterhouse. “We are in a very symbiotic relationship,” he said. “While we provide mentoring, the students are doing valuable work that drives our research forward. Through novel projects, they almost always uncover new findings that generate publications in professional journals and presentations at professional meetings, key criteria used by funding agencies when considering grant requests.”

Vasudeva says communication is crucial to a successful mentoring relationship. “Always be open and honest with your mentor,” she advised. “Barry gave me the freedom to learn a lot on my own and to make my own mistakes, which is important in science. But he was also there with the knowledge and guidance to get me back on the right track. I could always count on him for advice and support in my decisions.”

Barry Waterhouse, Ph.D., vice dean for Biomedical Graduate & Postgraduate Studies and professor in the Department of Neurobiology & Anatomy, was honored with the “Educator Award” at the 2010 Philadelphia Chapter of the Society for Neuroscience meeting. The award recognizes excellence in teaching and dedication to education at all levels.
Celebrated on March 17 at medical schools around the globe, Match Day began at the Queen Lane Campus with a champagne toast delivered by President and Annenberg Dean Richard V. Homan, M.D. Then the students simultaneously opened the sealed envelopes containing the name and location of their residency training. Of the 268 graduating students, 64 chose internal medicine. Pediatrics and anesthesiology were next with 32 students each, followed by emergency medicine, family medicine, and orthopedic surgery. Other areas of study included general surgery, radiology, obstetrics-gynecology, ophthalmology, and psychiatry.
Drexel Center for Digestive Health Recognized for Quality

Drexel Medicine’s Center for Digestive Health has been recognized for quality and safety by the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE) and has received three-year re-accreditation by the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care. Accreditation distinguishes the center as providing a safe work environment and the highest quality of care to its patients. Candidates for accreditation by the AAAHC undergo an extensive self-assessment and on-site survey by the Accreditation Association’s expert surveyors—volunteer physicians, nurses, and administrators who are actively involved in ambulatory health care.

The center performs both diagnostic endoscopy, including upper endoscopy and colonoscopy, and therapeutic or interventional endoscopy.

Women’s Care Center Part of Refugee Health Collaborative

Last fall, the Women’s Care Center, which provides comprehensive gynecologic, obstetric and reproductive healthcare services to an urban, minority and underserved population, joined in a partnership to provide healthcare services to refugees. The new Philadelphia Refugee Health Collaborative, led by the Nationalities Service Center, also includes primary care and pediatric clinics, as well as organizations that offer family and social services.

The collaborative recently received recognition and assistance in developing its initiative thanks to the United Way Innovative Partnership prize, awarded with a grant of $15,000 and free consultation services. The goal of the collaborative is to create an equitable system of providing holistic health services to refugees new to Philadelphia and ensure a consistently high standard of care. The WCC has been developing programs and practices specifically directed to the Philadelphia immigrant and refugee populations since 2007 in an effort to fill the notable gap in reproductive health and cancer screening services available to these women.

Vision 2020 and National Constitution Center Celebrate Women’s History Month

Vision 2020, the national initiative created by the Institute for Women’s Health and Leadership at Drexel University College of Medicine to make equality a priority among women and men, held a “Celebration of Women’s History and Future” at the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia on March 30. The National Goals of Vision 2020 were announced and participants signed a “Declaration of Equality” to show support for the project. Featured speakers included Richard V. Homan, M.D., College of Medicine president and Annenberg Dean; Lynn Yeakel, Vision 2020 co-chair and director of the Institute for Women’s Health and Leadership; Erin Viliardi, a vice president of the White House Project and New York Vision 2020 delegate; and the two Vision 2020 Pennsylvania delegates, Fran Fattah and Janet Kroll. For more information, visit www.drexel.edu/vision2020.

Scholar Speaks on Women in Warfare

University of Edinburgh scholar Yvonne McEwen gave the 61st annual Kate Hurd-Mead Lecture on March 17. An expert on women in warfare, McEwen is the official historian to the British Army Nursing Service, for which she has been commissioned to write a four-volume history. The topic of her lecture was “Lesions of the Will or Wounds of the Spirit: Shellshock in Women in World War I.”

McEwen showed a film of men who were experiencing a variety of physical and psychological traumas thought to be caused by their war service. Women in warfare were affected by their experiences as well, she said, but their roles have not been as clearly documented. Women held a variety of jobs, working as caregivers and apothecaries during Colonial times and later as nurses. “Women have always had a role to play in warfare,” McEwen noted. “Simply put, waging war without women would be impossible.”

The term shellshock was not coined until 1915 when Dr. Charles Meyers used it to describe the trauma suffered by male soldiers. In 1920, British authorities led an inquiry to investigate shellshock. Only four women were interviewed. With the lack of evidence, McEwen said, it was hard to tell how women in warfare were coping. She began to investigate. The sources she examined included official reports, diaries, pension documents, parliamentary reports, and personal correspondence.

“My work is not driven by a feminist agenda,” McEwen said. “It’s to make sure all the evidence is considered—and that includes evidence from women.”

McEwen concluded that women did not have different mental health issues from men, but did have different social and cultural norms that affected how they managed their stress. The nurses and women on the frontlines witnessed industrial warfare that both wounded and challenged their spirits, she said.

The Kate Hurd-Mead lecture, honoring an 1888 graduate of Woman’s Medical College of Pennsylvania, is sponsored by the Institute for Women’s Health and Leadership and the College of Physicians of Philadelphia.
Black Tie White Coat Ball to Benefit Alzheimer's Research

Governor and Mayor are honorary co-chairs

The College of Medicine's sixth Black Tie White Coat Ball, benefiting research into the prevention, treatment and cure of Alzheimer's disease and memory disorders, will take place on Saturday, October 22. Governor Corbett and Mayor Nutter are among the distinguished honorary co-chairs of the event.

The gala, to be held in the brand new Grand Ballroom at the Philadelphia Downtown Marriott, will include musical entertainment, dinner and dancing. This year's honorees are Nicholas DeBenedictis, chairman, president and CEO of Aqua America, Inc., and Manuel Stamatakis, president and CEO of Capital Management Enterprises, both of whom played a key role in the formation of Drexel University College of Medicine.

For information, visit [www.drexelmed.edu/blacktie](http://www.drexelmed.edu/blacktie), email blacktie@drexelmed.edu or call 215-255-7330.

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Partnership Practice Receives Award from MANNA

The College of Medicine's HIV/AIDS practice – the Partnership Comprehensive Care Practice – is a recipient of the Nourish Award from MANNA (Metropolitan Area Neighborhood Nutrition Alliance) in recognition of its service to those living with HIV and in particular its commitment to proactive nutritional practices. The largest HIV practice in the Greater Philadelphia area, the Partnership delivers primary and specialty medical care through a team of physicians and nurse practitioners with extensive training in HIV medicine, primary care, and infectious diseases. It is the only HIV clinic in the region with a full-time nutritionist on staff.

Jeffrey Jacobson, M.D., professor of medicine and chief of the Division of Infectious Diseases and HIV Medicine, accepted the award on behalf of the practice. He acknowledged the dedicated work of Margaret Cauterucci, R.D., the Partnership's nutritionist and certified diabetes educator, and her tireless efforts in providing nutritional assessments, education, and resources to improve the health and nourishment of patients of the practice. MANNA is a non-profit organization that prepares and delivers 70,000 meals each year to individuals and families living with HIV/AIDS, cancer, and other life-threatening illnesses.

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Compliance Corner: Preventing Prescription Fraud

The Office of Risk Management has received numerous emails and telephone calls regarding stolen prescription pads, fraudulent prescriptions, and issues involving pharmacies. If you are a faculty physician, the following information will guide you in fulfilling your obligation as a practicing physician in Pennsylvania to report such an incident.

For issues involving stolen prescription pads or fraudulent prescriptions, you should immediately:

- Report the incident to your local police department.
- Report the incident to the Drexel University Department of Public Safety.
  - Telephone: 215-895-2822
- Telephone: 215-238-5160

If the theft or fraud involves a controlled substance, you should also immediately call the Philadelphia Field Division of the Drug Enforcement Administration Diversion Program at 215-238-5160.

If there is an issue involving a pharmacy error, you should contact the State Board of Pharmacy by calling 717-783-7156 or emailing st-pharmacy@state.pa.us.

If you have any questions or concerns about this topic, please do not hesitate to call Risk Management at 215-255-7841 or 7848.

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Office of the Chief Compliance and Privacy Officer: 215-355-7819
Confidential compliance hotlines: Call toll-free 866-936-1010 or visit [www.drexelmed.edu/ComplianceHotline](http://www.drexelmed.edu/ComplianceHotline)
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Bulletins:

The Dr. Eli Abrutyn Memorial Lecture April 27
A lectureship honoring the late Eli Abrutyn, M.D., will be inaugurated on April 27. Julie Gerberding, M.D., MPH, president of Merck Vaccines and former director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, will present "Global Health Development: Fixing Problems or Creating Solutions?" Abrutyn, who was a professor of medicine in the Division of Infectious Diseases, director of the College’s Center for the Study of Hospital Acquired Infections, and head of faculty affairs, among other positions, passed away in 2007. Co-sponsored by the College of Medicine and the Drexel University School of Public Health, the lecture will be held at 5 p.m. in Geary Auditorium, New College Building, 245 N. 15th Street. Please register in advance, either online at www.publichealth.drexel.edu/abrutyn or by phone, 215-762-3940.

Internal Medicine Board Review Course June 14-18
The Internal Medicine Board Review Course provides an intensive review of essential material for the American Board of Internal Medicine certification and recertification exams. The course covers all subspecialties of internal medicine and associated specialties, as well as test-taking strategies and skills. The course can also be used for continuing medical education by physicians who want to refresh their knowledge with the latest evidence-based information. Early bird tuition discount until May 9. For detailed curriculum, tuition, and registration information, visit www.drexelmed.edu/imbrc or contact Karen Rose at 215-762-8695 or krose@drexelmed.edu.

Calendar:

April

National Cancer Control Month

Apr 6 Golden Apple Awards Ceremony
Queen Lane Campus
Contact: Shay Myers, 215-991-8219 or smyers@drexelmed.edu

Apr 25 Woman One Ceremony
Rittenhouse Hotel, 5:30 p.m.
The Institute for Women's Health and Leadership honors Sara Manzano-Díaz
Tickets are $125. Contact: 215-991-8190 or iwhl@drexelmed.edu

Apr 27 Inaugural Eli Abrutyn Memorial Lecture
New College Building, Geary Auditorium, 5 p.m.
"Global Health Development: Fixing Problems or Creating Solutions?"
Julie Gerberding, M.D., MPH; president, Merck Vaccines; former director, CDC
Please register: www.publichealth.drexel.edu/abrutyn, or call 215-762-3940

May

Hepatitis Awareness Month

May 6-7 Alumni Weekend
Contact: Toll-free 866-373-9633 or medical.alumni@drexel.edu

May 17 Senior Class Formal

May 18-20 50-Year Reunion
Contact: Toll-free 866-373-9633 or medical.alumni@drexel.edu

May 20 Commencement
Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts, 9 a.m. (robing 8 a.m.)
Contact: Shay Myers, smyers@drexelmed.edu