Global Health: Simulation Training to Help Save Lives at Birth

A woman dies in childbirth every two minutes. The majority of those deaths, according to the World Health Organization, occur in developing countries, especially in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia where there is a lack of trained medical providers to perform emergency cesarean sections in cases of obstructed labor.

With that in mind, a research team from Drexel University College of Medicine is getting attention for its proposal to teach the life-saving operative techniques of emergency cesarean section delivery to non-obstetricians in developing countries using the world’s first high-fidelity obstetrical simulator.

The Drexel Medicine researchers, led by Owen Montgomery, M.D., chairman of the Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology, were part of a team called “Operative Experience,” which recently won one of 19 seed grant awards at a competition called Saving Lives at Birth: A Grand Challenge for Development. The challenge, which drew 600 proposals, is a joint initiative of USAID, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Grand Challenges Canada, the Government of Norway, and the World Bank, all of whom have teamed up to find the tools and approaches to help mothers and newborns during their most vulnerable hours.

“We believe that if we can provide a low-cost, highly efficient method to train midwives and other providers in underserved areas how to safely perform emergency C-sections, we can reduce maternal/fetal mortality and other devastating complications of obstructed labor,” said Montgomery.

Montgomery’s team is working with Operative Experience, Inc., a Maryland-based company that has pioneered unique, simulation-based methods currently used to train military physicians and combat medics in critical trauma procedures.

Operative Experience is now developing the first-in-the-world high-fidelity model of a pregnant patient with obstructed labor. The model will represent the skin, subcutaneous tissues, muscles, bones, bladder, uterus, fetus, umbilical cord, placenta, and amniotic membranes that can be cut, dissected, retracted, and sutured using standard surgical instruments.

The trainee will be aided by a detailed multimedia tutorial, which will be developed at the simulation centers at the College of Medicine and Drexel’s College of Nursing & Health Professions, using nurse-midwives from the Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology.

“This is one of the most exciting professional activities of my career,” said Montgomery. “Our project has the potential to dramatically improve the maternal and neonatal outcomes for the world’s most vulnerable populations.”

In addition to Montgomery, other collaborators include Robert Buckman, M.D., CEO of Operative Experience, Inc.; Colonel Jerome Buller, M.D., vice chairman of obstetrics and gynecology at Walter Reed Army Medical Center; and Benjamin Morley, M.D., director of obstetrical anesthesia at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center.

The team intends to apply for follow-up awards after they have proof of concept, with the plan to scale up for global distribution.

Simulation: A physician demonstrates a cesarean section delivery on a high-fidelity, vascularized model of a pregnant abdomen. For more on medical simulation, see pages 11 and 13.
Greetings! I am honored to have been appointed interim dean by President Fry. It will be a true privilege to steward the College of Medicine through this transition period with your help and support. The College continues its growth trajectory and we must continue planning and implementing initiatives under way and those that will emerge from the strategic plan discussions. I want to share with you the “blueprint” of the priorities for this year.

As a first step, I want to engage students and faculty on the ground, away from the Office of the Dean in the New College Building. To this end, I have established an office at the Queen Lane Campus, in Dr. Schindler’s suite, where I will spend every Wednesday. I will also meet with students and faculty for lunch and in corridors and offices, and visit laboratories and classrooms to the extent that my schedule will permit. I will continue to teach my assigned lectures and hope to contribute to clinical teaching as I collaborate with my colleagues in the Adult Cystic Fibrosis Center of the Department of Medicine, at 219 N. Broad Street.

Front and center on our list of priorities is to address all the issues pertaining to the upcoming (March 2013) accreditation visit by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME). We received an outstanding evaluation eight years ago and we look forward to a similar result this time around. Much work goes into the preparation, which involves us all under the leadership of Drs. Barbara Schindler and Donna Russo.

The mission of patient care sets medical schools apart from other higher education activities. The clinical practice is a business enterprise – a not-for-profit, to be sure, but nonetheless a business. To secure its success, we will champion the Drexel University Physicians® group practice, support new and emerging programs, and enhance the physical environment by working to improve facilities and equipment. These initiatives will provide new opportunities for, and better serve, our patients, our faculty and staff, and the students that we teach.

The face of healthcare in the nation and in Philadelphia will likely change in the years to come. I will work with President Fry, Chairman Silverman and the boards of both the College and the University, in developing a vision for the future of the College of Medicine, its structure and relationships as we move forward in the fulfillment of our missions. We have already begun making efforts to further solidify our relationships with our current partner, Tenet Healthcare and the Tenet hospitals in Philadelphia and their leadership. It is important that we try to align our interests and work together to enhance our standing in the health market and improve our ability to care for patients, educate students, train physicians and conduct research.

Our affiliated academic campuses are fundamental to the educational mission of the college. We will continue to strengthen the relationships we have and to explore new opportunities for affiliation, encompassing not only educational, but also research and clinical opportunities. In my role as interim dean, I will advocate for all faculty members regardless of employment status or geographic location. Each individual is essential to our educational mission and deserves recognition and support.

We are fortunate to be an integral part of a vibrant urban research university. Over the ensuing months I hope that we will increase our collaboration with other Drexel schools in the area of inter-professional education, as well as build upon the many research relationships we have already established. Continued growth in interdisciplinary and inter-college programs will enrich us all – College and University; faculty and student.

I look forward to working with all of you as we embark on what I expect to be an exciting year ahead!

Dean’s Office: 215-762-3500

Join Drexel University College of Medicine on YouTube and Flickr!

Drexel University College of Medicine now has an official YouTube channel and a Flickr account. The Office of Communications & Marketing recently launched a new YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/DrexelMedicine.

To see photos from College events, you can log on to our Flickr page at www.flickr.com/DrexelMedicine.

If you are on Facebook, we encourage you to “like” our page at www.facebook.com/DrexelMedicine.

You can also follow us on Twitter @DrexelMedNews.
2012 Woman One Honoree Is Named

The Institute for Women’s Health and Leadership has named Dianne Semingson, a leading businesswoman and entrepreneur, as the 2012 Woman One honoree.

In 1991, Semingson founded DLS International, where she currently serves as president. A member of several boards, including that of the Pennsylvania Women’s Business Forum, Semingson is also an active community participant. She has contributed extensively to the YMCA of Greater Philadelphia and Vicinity and previously acted as president and CEO of We the People 200, for which she planned and coordinated the celebration of the 200th anniversary of the signing of the U.S. Constitution.

Woman One, which celebrates its 10th anniversary in 2012, honors an outstanding woman leader in the Philadelphia community each year, while raising funds for medical scholarships for talented under-represented minority women at Drexel University College of Medicine.

The institute was pleased to welcome a new first-year student, Amber Peterson, as the WMC/MCP Trust Fund Woman One Scholar in the class of 2015. Peterson graduated from the University of Pennsylvania, majoring in health and societies, and spent a year at the University of Maryland in a post-baccalaureate program, taking classes to prepare for medical school and conducting research in healthcare policy.

The Woman One Award Ceremony will be held on April 23 at the Rittenhouse Hotel. Contact the institute at 215-991-8190 or iwhl@drexelmed.edu for more information.

Dr. McGregor Named Interim Chair of Pediatrics

Robert McGregor, M.D., has been named interim chair of the Department of Pediatrics following the appointment of Daniel V. Schidlow, M.D., as interim dean.

McGregor joined the College of Medicine as an associate professor of pediatrics in 1997 and was promoted to professor in 2006. He was named vice chair of the department in 2010.

A diplomat of the American Board of Pediatrics, McGregor is an attending physician and the director of the Pediatric Residency Program at St. Christopher’s Hospital for Children. He is also a member of the consulting staff for the pediatrics departments at Abington Memorial Hospital and St. Luke’s Hospital. Over the years, he has served as president of the Association of Pediatric Program Directors, led educational efforts for the American Board of Pediatrics and the American Academy of Pediatrics, and served in several capacities for the National Board of Medical Examiners. He has been named among the top doctors for children by New Jersey Magazine and Best Doctors in America, and has won numerous other honors, including many teaching awards.

McGregor received his medical degree from Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine at Hershey and completed his residency and chief residency with the Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh.

President’s Awards to College Employees

College of Medicine faculty and staff members received two of the President’s Awards on Wednesday, November 2.

The Award for Excellence for Non-Faculty Professional Staff went to Robin Smith, academic director for clinical education. Smith received the award for collaborating with faculty and staff in the Office of Educational Affairs to create a brand-new system, DOCSS (for Drexel Online Curriculum Scheduling System), that not only allows the OEA to place students at clinical sites but also to receive their evaluations.

The Award for Volunteer Service went to the Healthcare Outreach Project Volunteer Physicians Team for their weekly service at four free health clinics run by Drexel University College of Medicine students. The award recognizes the outstanding personal commitment to community engagement, an integral component of Drexel’s mission to serve its students and society. These physicians provide interdisciplinary health services to individuals in the Philadelphia area who have limited or no access to care.

The team members are: Drs. William Burdick, Mario Cruz, Venu Divi, Pamela Duke, Annette Gadegbeku, Jennifer Hamilton, Rosemary Harris, Maryann Kuzma, Pramath Nath, Steven Peitzman, Steven Rosenzweig, Christine Soutendijk, David Wagner, Evan Weiner, Julie Yeh, Vincent Zarro, and Steven Zinn.
**ELAM Is Model for Leadership Program in College of Engineering**

The College of Medicine's successful ELAM® (Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine) program for women is the model for ELATE at Drexel™: Executive Leadership in Academic Technology and Engineering, a national leadership development program for senior women in academic engineering, computing, and related fields. A collaborative project of Drexel University and Drexel University College of Medicine, the new program began accepting applications in November for its first class.

Like the ELAM program for women in medicine, dentistry and public health, ELATE is a one-year part-time fellowship for tenured women faculty at the rank of associate professor or professor who demonstrate potential for and aspirations to institutional leadership. Only 24 fellows will be accepted into the first class, to be announced this spring; the initial session will be held in August 2012 in Philadelphia. For information on ELAM, visit www.drexelmed.edu/elam; for information on ELATE at Drexel, visit www.drexel.edu/engineering/programs/special_opp/ELATE.

**Alpha Omega Alpha Seniors Elected**

We are pleased to announce that the following seniors have been elected to membership in Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society. Election is based on academic scholarship and professionalism. Capacity for leadership, service, and scholarly activity are also considered. Congratulations!

Mugdha Agrawal    Matthew Kronick
Alfredo Arrojas   Nancy Lalanne
Divya Arunachalam Z Liu
Omer Beaird       Diana Meskill
Brittany Behar    Brett Miller
Jason Bell        Tyler Morris
Jacqueline Calvo  Steven Naids
Eric Charles      Shaheen Najafi
Justin Chen       Justin Overcash
Jeffrey Cruz      Michelle Paff
Brian Czervionke  Eliot Peyster
Eunice Del Rosario Bharat Ranganath
Vishal Desai      Stefanie Saunders
Eric Emanski      Edward Schleyer
Megan Fetterolf   Ronak Shah
Kelly Fung        Maria Sheron
Kristine Garcia   Shawn Sikka
Lauren George     Thomas Walk
Natalie Gladstein Brittany Weber
Richard Howell    Christopher Weiss
Alyssa Kennedy    Ami Yamamoto
Yevgeny Klebanov

Call for Nominations: See page 13.

**D. Scott Lind, M.D., Named Surgery Chair**

D. Scott Lind, M.D., has joined Drexel University College of Medicine as professor and chair of the Department of Surgery.

Lind comes to Philadelphia from the Medical College of Georgia, where he served as chief of the Section of Surgical Oncology and Jarrell Distinguished Professor in the Department of Surgery since 2005. He also served as surgical director of the adult operating room at the MCG Health System. Prior to his tenure in Georgia, Lind was a professor of surgery at the University of Florida College of Medicine and chief of surgery at the North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health System.

In his research, which has been continuously funded since his fellowship days, Lind has pursued clinical interests in breast cancer and melanoma, and educational topics, particularly the use of simulation in medical education. He has published more than 130 papers and book chapters and has given more than 100 regional and national presentations.

Lind received his medical degree from Eastern Virginia Medical School, and completed his residency at The University of Texas at San Antonio and a fellowship in surgical oncology at the Medical College of Virginia. Over the years, he has been named among America’s top doctors by Castle Connolly Medical Ltd. and has won numerous other honors, including many teaching awards. He is a member of the editorial boards of the *Journal of Surgical Oncology*, *Breast Journal*, and WISE M.D. Multimedia Project.

Lind has also been named clinical service chief by Hahnemann University Hospital.

**Upcoming CME Event**

15th Annual “A Day with the Newborn”
January 27, 2012
7:15 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Maria Delivoria-Papadopoulos, M.D.
Professor of Pediatrics
Program Director
St. Christopher’s Hospital for Children
3601 “A” Street
Philadelphia, PA 19134

Contact: Kathy Rellstab, 215-427-5159
or kathy.rellstab@tenethealth.com
Discovery 2011, the College’s annual celebration of research, was held on Thursday, October 6, at the Queen Lane Campus. The event showcased hundreds of poster presentations on topics as diverse as infectious diseases, cancer, spinal cord injury and repair, behavioral neurobiology, and many more.

Rudolph E. Tanzi, Ph.D., professor of neurology at Harvard Medical School, presented the L.M. “Bill” Stephenson Lecture: “What Can Genes Teach Us About Treating Alzheimer’s Disease?”

**Award Winners**

**Basic Research Scientist Award**
Olimpia Meucci, M.D., Ph.D.
Pharmacology & Physiology

**Young Investigator Award**
Julio Martín-García, Ph.D.
Microbiology & Immunology

**Graduate Citation Award**
Jiang-Fan Chen, M.D., Ph.D., MCP ’93
Professor of Neurology and Pharmacology
Boston University School of Medicine

**Amedeo Bondi Fellowship Award**
Aditi Falnikar
Neuroscience

**GSA Teacher of the Year Award**
Patrick Loll, Ph.D.
Biochemistry & Molecular Biology

**Clifton Ogburn Molecular Medicine Scholarship**
Benjamin Janto
Microbiology & Immunology

**Outstanding Platform Presentation**
Kristen Long
Microbiology & Immunology

**Outstanding Senior Graduate Poster**
Oleg Alekseev
Biochemistry & Molecular Biology

**Outstanding Clinical Resident and Fellow Poster**
Jeffrey Lin
Surgery

**Outstanding Technician Poster**
Tanu Singh
Biochemistry & Molecular Biology

**Outstanding Junior Graduate Student Poster**
Aislinn Sowash
Molecular Pathobiology

**Outstanding Medical Student Poster**
Frances Chow

**Outstanding Post-Doctoral Fellow Poster**
Hangjun Ke
Microbiology & Immunology

**Outstanding High School Student Poster**
Lijia Xie
North Penn High School

**Outstanding Undergraduate Poster**
Sarah Michelson
Drexel University

**Poster/Platform First Prize Winners**

**Outstanding Platform Presentation**
Kristen Long
Microbiology & Immunology

**Outstanding Senior Graduate Poster**
Oleg Alekseev
Biochemistry & Molecular Biology

**Outstanding Clinical Resident and Fellow Poster**
Jeffrey Lin
Surgery

**Outstanding Technician Poster**
Tanu Singh
Biochemistry & Molecular Biology

**Outstanding Junior Graduate Student Poster**
Aislinn Sowash
Molecular Pathobiology

**Outstanding Medical Student Poster**
Frances Chow

**Outstanding Post-Doctoral Fellow Poster**
Hangjun Ke
Microbiology & Immunology

**Outstanding High School Student Poster**
Lijia Xie
North Penn High School

**Outstanding Undergraduate Poster**
Sarah Michelson
Drexel University

Drs. Waterhouse and Jiang-Fan Chen, and Elinor Cantor, Ph.D., MCP ’97, a trustee.

Kristen Long, and Drs. Kirsten Larson, associate professor, Department of Microbiology & Immunology, and Michael Bouchard, associate professor, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology.

Oleg Alekseev describes his research to Ju-Tao Guo, M.D., associate professor, Department of Microbiology & Immunology.
’30s
Albert A. Gleason, M.D., HU ’38 celebrates 100 years – see page 10.

’60s
Robert T. K. Leardi, M.D., HU ’64 a retired pathologist, was honored by the Alumni Association of St. James Catholic High School for Boys (formerly in Chester, Pa.), by having his name added to the “Wall of Honor.” Leardi, who graduated from the school in 1956, was selected for being a nationally recognized authority in the fields of clinical and anatomic pathology, blood banking and hematology.

’70s
Mary Lou Marsh, M.D., MCP ’73 was honored by the Sacred Hearts Academy in Honolulu as one of six outstanding alumnas. Marsh graduated from Sacred Hearts in 1963. She is an anesthesiologist in the San Diego area and has several patents pending.

Harry Collins, M.D., HU ’74 medical director of JFK Haven Hospice, received the Hospice Medical Director of the Year award from the New Jersey Hospice and Palliative Care Organization for his outstanding dedication and care for the community.

Mark Chag, M.D., MCP ’79 a senior partner and obstetrician-gynecologist at Harbour Women’s Health in Portsmouth, N.H., has received the Frist Humanitarian Award from the Hospital Corporation of America and Portsmouth Regional Hospital for his service to patients and tireless work on behalf of the healthcare community.

’80s
Peter S. Amenta, M.D., HU ’80; Ph.D., HU ’84 dean of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey—Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in New Brunswick, has been elected to the board of trustees of the Joslin Diabetes Center for a three-year term.

David Arbutina, M.D., HU ’80 a board-certified general surgeon and retired U.S. Air Force colonel, has joined the medical staff of Tyrone Hospital in Tyrone, Pa. He serves as a governor of the American College of Surgeons and is also president of the Keystone Chapter of the American College of Surgeons.

Owen Montgomery, M.D., HU ’81 is part of a team that won one of 19 seed grants from USAID for an innovative proposal for Saving Lives at Birth: A Grand Challenge for Development. Montgomery, who is professor and chair of the Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology at the College of Medicine, is the content expert and obstetrical consultant for “Operative Experience” (see cover story).

Barbara Dalton, Ph.D., MCP ’83 vice president of venture capital within the Worldwide Business Development, Strategy, and Innovation division at Pfizer, participated in a panel discussion at the Xconomy Life Sciences 2031 Forum and was also interviewed for Xconomy.

Michael Demeure, M.D., HU ’83 was appointed to the advisory board of Andarix Pharmaceuticals, a clinical stage company. Demeure is a member of the research faculty at the Translational Genomics Research Institute in Scottsdale, Ariz., where he has been a clinical professor since 2005, serves as director of the Pancreatic Cancer Biospecimens Repository for an NIH program grant, and directs the adrenocortical cancer center.

Wanda D. Filer, M.D., HU ’83 was elected to the board of directors of the American Academy of Family Physicians. She is the founder and president of the Strategic Health Institute in York, Pa., a health policy and public health consulting firm. She practices part time at East York Family Medicine.

Michael Fine, M.D., HU ’83 received the 2011 John M. Eisenberg Award for Career Achievement in Research at the annual meeting of the Society of General Internal Medicine. Fine directs the VA Center for Health Equity Research and Promotion, based in Pittsburgh, Pa. In addition, Fine is a professor of medicine at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine.

Harry Lehman III, M.D., HU ’83; Pediatrics Resident, HU ’86 was appointed to the board of directors of Nanticoke Health Services in Seaford, Del. Lehman is in private practice in Seaford and has been chair of Nanticoke Memorial Hospital’s Department of Pediatrics for 12 years.

Jeffrey Loose, M.D., HU ’84 was elected to a two-year term as president of the medical and dental staff of Taylor Hospital, in Ridley Park, Pa. Loose is board certified in anatomic and clinical pathology. He has served as medical director of Taylor Hospital’s laboratory and chairman of the Pathology Department since 2001.

John Dawsey, M.D., HU ’85 joined the Department of Radiology at Community Medical Center in Scranton, Pa.

Mary O’Connor, M.D., MCP ’85 chair of the Department of Orthopedic Surgery at Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, Fla., is leading a study funded by the Society for Women’s Health Research to determine if sex-based biological differences in knee tissues and fluid affect knee pain and inflammation experienced by men and women with knee arthritis.

Mark J. LiBassi, M.D., MCP ’87; Surgery Resident MCP ’92 has been named director of the Department of Surgery at Aria Health in Philadelphia.

Karen L. Smith, M.D., HU ’89 has been recognized as a member of the Meaningful Use Vanguard by the Office of the National

continued on page 8
Coordinator for Health Information Technology, “MUvers” are local leaders and advisers in the transition toward electronic health records. Board-certified in family medicine, Smith has a solo practice in Raeford, N.C. Her testimonial on the advantages of EHR is online at www.healthit.gov/providers-professionals/dr-karen-smith.

'90s

Robert Corrato, M.D., MCP '90 was featured in an article, “How Robert Corrato Created a Culture That Is Innovative and Operational at Executive Health Resources,” that appeared in SmartBusiness. Corrato is founder, president and CEO of Executive Health Resources in Newtown Square, Pa., which provides medical necessity compliance solutions to hospitals and health systems.

James P. Tursi, M.D., MCP '90 was promoted to chief medical officer of Auxilium Pharmaceuticals, a specialty biopharmaceutical company in Malvern, Pa., which he joined in 2009. He has been responsible for the oversight of clinical development, clinical operations, biometrics and medical writing.

Linda Sysol, M.S., MCP '93 microbiology lab coordinator at Underwood-Memorial Hospital in Woodbury, N.J., has been selected as the Leader of the Quarter for 2011, a designation that recognizes individuals for how they exemplify leadership qualities.

Jeffrey Hawtof, M.D., HU ’95 was appointed vice president of medical operations and informatics at Beebe Medical Center in Lewes, Del., and will also fill the role of chief of medical information. Hawtof will continue to see patients on a part-time basis at his private practice in Millsboro, Del.

Gregory Cuculino, M.D., MCP ’96 has been named chairman of the Department of Emergency Medicine at Delaware County Memorial Hospital in Drexel Hill, Pa. Cuculino is also chairman of the Department of Emergency Medicine at Taylor Hospital in Ridley Park, Pa., and serves as president of Taylor’s medical and dental staff.

Nirva Lindor-Antoine, M.D., HU ’96 has joined Health Quest Medical Practice at its Hyde Park, N.Y., primary care office. Lindor-Antoine is board certified in family medicine. Before joining HQMP Hyde Park, she was a family physician in Westchester County, N.Y.

Yale S. Popowich, M.D., MCP ’98 a board-certified plastic surgeon, was named president of the Oregon Society of Plastic Surgeons. He previously served as treasurer, then vice president. He maintains a private plastic surgery practice in Portland.

Lauren S. Rosen, M.D., MCP ’98 has joined Main Line Family Medicine in Ardmore, Pa. Rosen, who is board certified in family medicine, sees patients age 16 and older and has a special interest in women’s health. She is on staff at Bryn Mawr Hospital.

Monica S. Carter, M.S., MCPHU ’99 a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine, was featured in an article, “Doctor Shares Story of Breast Cancer to Encourage Others,” that was published in the Lexington, N.C. newspaper, The Dispatch. She is an internist at Thomasville Medical Center in Thomasville, N.C.

'00s

Patricia D. Luckeroth, M.S., MCPHU ’01 a general surgeon, joined the practice of Michael D. Sparkuhl, M.D., as an associate physician. The practice has offices in Ventura and Santa Paula, Calif., and is affiliated with Santa Paula Hospital and Community Memorial Hospital.

Alexandra K. Retana, M.D. ’04 a gastroenterologist, joined the group practice at Hawthorn Medical Associates in Dartmouth, Mass.

Lev Grunstein, M.D. ’04 joined the Wailuku Clinic on Maui, part of Kaiser Permanente Hawaii. Grunstein is an ophthalmologist and most recently served as clinical instructor of ophthalmology at the Jules Stein Eye Institute at the UCLA Geffen School of Medicine.

H. Carter Davidson, Ph.D. ’05; M.D. ’06 joined the practice of Summit ENT & Hearing Services, an affiliate of Summit Health, located in Chambersburg, Pa.

Youval Katz, M.D. ’05 joined the clinical staff of the New London Cancer Center in Waterford, Conn. Katz, who completed a hematology/oncology fellowship with UMDNJ-Cooper University Hospital in June, is also affiliated with Lawrence & Memorial Hospital in New London, Conn.

Arjumand Ali, M.D. ’06 has joined Pendurthi Surgical Associates in Bethlehem, Pa., part of Lehigh Valley Health Network. She is a general surgeon.

David S. Pan, M.D. ’06, joined Eye Surgical Associates in Lincoln, Neb. Pan, who earned his M.S. in medical science at the College in 2002, specializes in diseases of the retina and vitreous. He is also an accomplished concert pianist, who has performed in numerous benefit concerts.

Jeffrey Stevens, M.D. ’06; Ophthalmology Resident ‘10 has joined Avera Medical Group Ophthalmology, a new practice established by Avera McKennan Hospital & University Health Center in Sioux Falls, S.D.
Marcy Byrns, M.D. ’08; Internal Medicine Resident ’11 joined Essentia Health–St. Joseph’s Brainerd Clinic in Brainerd, Minn.

Rebecca C. Miller, M.D. ’08 has joined the Department of Emergency Medicine at Altoona Regional Health System in Altoona, Pa.

Kevin M. Bernstein, M.D. ’11 now a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy, reported for duty at the Naval Hospital of Pensacola, Fla. Bernstein also earned his M.S. in medical sciences at the College of Medicine in 2007.

Raul Angel Garcia, M.S. ’11 started medical school at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. He was featured in an article, “150 Students Start Medical Careers at University of Medicine and Dentistry,” on nj.com.

Brian Rodriguez, M.D. ’11 has begun his residency training in family medicine at the Maine-Dartmouth Family Residency program.

Janani Singaravelu, M.S. ’11 received a Fulbright Scholarship to travel to Vellore, India, to research the impact of health-seeking behaviors on people infected with HIV and tuberculosis. Her study will evaluate the impact of patient behaviors, including on-time pill pickup, on the progression of the disease.

Former Residents and Fellows

Firouzeh Safai-Nili, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Resident, HU ’99 has been promoted to medical director for Greenridge Counseling Center in the Roxborough area of Philadelphia. Safai-Nili is board certified in general psychiatry, and child and adolescent psychiatry. She has worked for Greenridge Counseling Center as a child psychiatrist since 2008.

Colville Ferdinand, Surgery Resident MCP ’02; Surgery/Critical Care Fellow, MCP ’03 associate professor of surgery at Georgia Health Sciences University, has been named chief of Trauma and Surgical Critical Care for the Level 1 Trauma Center at Georgia Health Sciences Medical Center. Ferdinand also serves as medical director of the Bloodless Medicine and Surgery Program and co-director of the Surgical Critical Care Fellowship.

Mohammed Dattu, Psychiatry Resident, MCPHU ’03 a board-certified psychiatrist, has joined Psychology and Counseling Associates, a behavioral health practice with locations in Pottstown, Collegeville, and Montgomeryville, Pa.

Raid Aljumaily, Internal Medicine Resident, HU ’08 a cancer specialist, joined the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University and its group medical practice, ECU Physicians. His clinical and research interest is lung cancer. He sees patients at the Leo Jenkins Cancer Center in Greenville, N.C.

Kelli Daniels, OB/GYN Resident, HU ’08 has joined the practice of Physicians for Women, part of the Crozer-Keystone Health Network, with offices in Upland, Glen Mills, and Ridley Park, Pa. Daniels is board certified in obstetrics and gynecology.


Andrew M. Weber, Hematology & Oncology Fellow, HU ’11 has joined the Tommy Hamm Sr. Cancer Center in Lynn Haven, Fla. Weber is board certified in internal medicine and is board eligible in both hematology and medical oncology.

In Memoriam

Edward L. Hoffman, M.D., HU ’60 August 8

Henry G. Traynor, M.D., HU ’56 September 9

Robert W. Nyce, M.D., HU ’54 September 28

Charles R. Swift, M.D., HU ’47 September 30

Roscoe L. Curry, M.D., HU ’53 October 1

Richard P. Malone, M.D., HU ’83 October 3

Please see Faculty In Memoriam, page 10.

Landis Barish, M.D., HU ’53 October 5

Family Honors Memory of Alison Norris

The family of the late Alison Norris, M.D., MCP ’80, who passed away in December 2009, has honored her legacy through a multiyear grant to the New York Academy of Medicine to establish the Alison Norris Nephrology Section. The grant, made by Alison’s sister, Laurie Norris, and Laurie’s husband, Clarence Pearson, will support an annual national education program for nephrology trainees and faculty, which will focus on issues of importance to Alison such as ethical dilemmas in patient care, patient-centered communication and end-of-life care. Laurie Norris would like to hear from other alumni who knew Alison and would care to share their recollections with her (email nyvikings@aol.com).

Update your alumni record by sending your email address to medical.alumni@drexel.edu.
Dr. Gleason Celebrates One Hundred Years

Albert H. Gleason, M.D., HU ’38, celebrated his 100th birthday on October 22. He began his 62 years of practice (he retired at 92), in Perry, Fla. As payment from his first patient, he received a chicken. Gleason served as an Air Force flight surgeon in England during World War II, then returned to Florida and opened his practice in Winter Garden. He was the only doctor there, so although he was a general surgeon, he saw children, delivered babies, set broken bones, removed gallbladders, and “fixed broken hearts to the standard of the time.” Later, he was instrumental in getting the city to build a hospital, where he worked until it was torn down and replaced with a second, more modern hospital he advocated for. He practiced medicine there until 2003, when he retired, but his medical license is valid till 2012.

Two Alumnae Named Distinguished Daughters of Pennsylvania

Two College of Medicine alumnae are among nine outstanding women designated by Governor Tom Corbett as 2011 Distinguished Daughters of Pennsylvania. They are Anna T. Meadows, M.D., WMC ’69, of Philadelphia, and Susan Fort Sordoni, M.D., MCP ’97, of Harveys Lake. Meadows, an international leader in the study of childhood cancer, retired last year as a professor of pediatrics at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine and medical director of the Cancer Survivorship Program at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia. Her mission has been to track how cancer survivors fare over their lifetime. Sordoni developed “Circle of Friends” at Misericordia University, a program for mentally challenged women transitioning from high school to the workplace, and founded Volunteers in Medicine, a free clinic in Luzerne County for people without health insurance, where she continues to volunteer as a physician.

In Memoriam – Faculty Members Sadly Missed

Joseph R. DiPalma, M.D., Ph.D., professor emeritus of medicine and a former dean of the College of Medicine, passed away on September 7.

He joined the medical school in 1951 as chairman of the Department of Pharmacology at Hahnemann Medical College. A distinguished scientist and professor, he brought boundless energy to the lab and lecture hall, and won international recognition for his research. He was dean of the College from 1967 to 1982, and also served as senior vice president for academic affairs. He was active in obtaining funding for the New College Building, and during his tenure Hahnemann established the College of Allied Health Professions and developed Pennsylvania’s first physician assistant program. In 1976, he helped raise the bond issue to build the new Hahnemann Hospital. He was also instrumental in securing university status for Hahnemann. In 2004, he published an autobiography, Decanus Maximus (“Big Dean”) – “the story of a youngster who had a career in aviation in mind but was forced by his [parents] to enter medicine.” He is survived by four daughters, Dorothea, Joan S., Yvonne, and Mary-Jo. Memorial contributions may be made to Drexel University College of Medicine, Division of Cardiology Education and Research Fund, P.O. Box 8235, Philadelphia, PA 19101-9685; the memo line on the check should say “In memory of Joseph DiPalma, M.D.”

Richard P. Malone, M.D., HU ’83, a professor in the Department of Psychiatry, died suddenly on October 3.

He joined the faculty of Hahnemann University College of Medicine in 1990. A dedicated clinician who had many loyal patients in the autism center that he established originally at Hahnemann over 20 years ago, he obtained extramural funding for his work from the National Institute of Mental Health and several other sources, including the Food & Drug Administration, for his studies of the efficacy of various psychopharmacological interventions in children and adolescents with autism spectrum disorders and conduct disorder. He published widely in both areas.

He served on a number of committees at the local, regional, and national level, and worked extensively with the FDA and the NIMH on reviewing the safety profiles of various psychopharmacological agents. He had strong connections with the Autism Society who often turned to him for advice and to care for their children.

He is survived by his son, Rich, a junior at Drexel University, and his wife, friend, and colleague of many years, Mary Anne Delaney, M.D., professor of psychiatry. Memorial contributions may be made to Drexel University College of Medicine, P.O. Box 8235, Philadelphia, PA 19101-9685; the memo line on the check should state “In memory of Richard P. Malone, M.D.”
Grants Support Validation of New Simulation Tools

The use of simulation in medical education has captured the imagination, producing an amazing array of ideas and tools as faculty members conceive of new ways to teach their skills. Once a simulation tool has been developed and tested, a fundamental question remains: Does it improve, or at least facilitate, medical training?

Awards from the Independence Blue Cross Medical Simulation Center grant program enable faculty members to answer this question – to study the impact of simulation training on patient safety, diagnostic accuracy, efficacy of interventions and, ultimately, health outcomes.

The “VEUSim” (virtual endovaginal ultrasound simulator) was the subject of a grant chosen for funding last year (Grants & Kudos, NewsPager, June/July 2011). The principal investigator, Neal Handly, M.D., is an assistant professor in the Department of Emergency Medicine. His main collaborator is Todd Doehring, Ph.D., assistant research professor in the School of Biomedical Engineering, Science & Health Systems.

The VEUSim, which was built with support from the Coulter Foundation, is designed so that no manikin or plastic apparatus is needed for the simulation. Everything is built inside the machine – the shapes and the feel are both in the computer. As an analogy, Dr. Handly offers Wii tennis – the “racquet” is not in your hand, but on the screen, or in the machine.

**How VEUSim works:** Occupying half an LCD screen is an image of the ultrasound target (such as a female pelvis) and what looks like the ultrasound probe. The other half of the screen displays the ultrasound image that results when the probe touches that structure. You look at the body on the screen, and you move the probe over the body by moving a control stick. Haptic technology simulates a “contact surface,” so that as you move the probe across the surface of the anatomy, you feel it pushing back at you. Speed, force, and amount of contact can all be recorded.

“At the simplest, we have the trainee touch an egg-shaped object to get used to moving the probe and recognizing the structures within,” Handly explained. “As the trainee gets more skilled, we can move on to the female pelvic model. All the structures can be changed by programming – for example, we can put an ovarian cyst or an early fetal sac into the computer model and let the trainee have another go.”

**Two significant goals:** Handly’s grant proposed to validate the simulator and to develop an internalized expert.

Validation is critical for simulator use in medical education. An internalized expert in the simulator would free physicians with other responsibilities from having to stand watch over trainees. Currently, most simulators require an expert to be present during the encounter to monitor trainee progress and determine the right time to intercede, if necessary, while being cognizant of the learning style of the trainee.

The VEUSim was designed to collect information about the performance of the trainee. By following the experience of residents and ultrasound technicians training on the simulator during the study period, the researchers can begin to identify how movements detectable with the equipment may identify frustration or anxiety. What if the user has a bit of tremor? Is he or she nervous? Is the control stick hard to hold?

“We’d have an independent measure, too, by skin conductance [for sweat],” Handly said. In this particular example, there would be three measures: the movement detected by the simulator, self-reporting by the trainee, and skin conductance.

The ultimate goal would be to build in the intelligent tutor. You (the trainee) log in, the machine tells you what you did the last time – had a tremor, pressed too hard – and then creates the appropriate problem for this session.

**Validation is critical for simulator use in medical education.**

Don’t Get Stuck: Reducing Needlesticks Through Innovative Education

Our hypothesis is that the rate of needlesticks due to central venous catheter placement will decline among all residents exposed to either a simulation-based educational intervention or traditional education, but there will be a small yet observable difference between cohorts, with a lower incidence of needlestick among residents participating in simulation. We hypothesized only a small difference in effect size, as learning to use the CVC placement safety equipment is very simple, and residents may be able to understand and implement safe placement merely from attending the presentation. As residents learn how to use these needleless devices, we expect the incidence of their CVC needlestick injuries to decline.

– Sharon Griswold-Theodorson, M.D., PI, Associate Professor, Emergency Medicine

Figure shows placement of CVC in CentralLineMan task trainer. The needleless device replaces the need for suturing.
Dr. Clarke

John R. Clarke, M.D., professor of surgery, was elected president of the U.S. Chapter of the International Society of Surgery at its meeting on October 26 in San Francisco. The International Society of Surgery consists of academic surgeons with a particular interest in providing surgical education to surgeons throughout the world. The U.S. Chapter has approximately 500 active members.

Dr. Núñez

Ana Núñez, M.D., associate professor, Department of Medicine, and director of the Women’s Health Education Program (WHEP), and WHEP were recently awarded a $1.5 million grant to enhance “Philadelphia Ujima Coalition for a Healthier Community,” which is part of the gender-based “Coalition for a Healthier Community” national initiative. WHEP will receive $300,000 a year for the next five years to support its efforts to address health issues that adversely affect the health of women and girls in the community. The program is one of 10 chosen from across the country and the only one selected for funding in Pennsylvania.

Dr. Polyak

Boris Polyak, Ph.D., assistant professor, Department of Surgery, was awarded a new RO1 grant from the National Institutes of Health—National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute as principal investigator to study the effects of magnetically mediated localization of endothelial cells on restoration of injured vascular endothelium to treat in-stent restenosis and related underlying vascular disease. The grant, “Magnetic Targeting of Stents with Endothelial Cells for Prevention of Restenosis,” totals $1 million (in direct costs) over the course of four years (2011-2015). Peter Leikes, Ph.D., professor, School of Biomedical Engineering, Science & Health Systems, and Zulfiya Orynbayeva, Ph.D., research assistant professor, Department of Surgery, are co-investigators in this study.

Robert Sataloff, M.D., DMA, professor and chair, department of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery, has received the Distinguished Service Award of the American Academy of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery. The award was presented at the organization’s annual meeting held September 11-14 in San Francisco.

Dr. Wolf

Sandra Wolf, M.D., associate professor, Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology, was invited by the Institute of Medicine to speak to its standing committee on family planning and to participate in the discussion at a workshop held September 19 at the National Academies. She was asked to share her perspectives on the challenges in partnering Title X* clinics with other health systems, and specifically the evolution of, and challenges of, the Women’s Care Center partnership with Title X. The committee will help the Health & Human Services Office of Family Planning in strategic planning and program development in light of health care reform.

Submissions for 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. Thank you.
**Simulation Center Expands Technology and Clinical Skills Learning at Every Level**

Medical students, residents and fellows at Drexel University College of Medicine are learning an ever-expanding range of clinical skills throughout their medical training at the College’s state-of-the-art Independence Blue Cross Medical Simulation Center. The center’s newest technology includes two infant patient simulators acquired this year, one representing a newborn and the other an infant a few months old. A “junior” simulator representative of a child about age 9 will be added by the end of 2011.

The center has also acquired a number of new task trainers, including seven pelvic simulators with various pathologies to enable learners to practice rectal and other pelvic exams. A new TraumaMan task trainer enables learners to practice emergency airway puncture, chest tube insertion, procedures to aspirate air or fluid from the chest cavity or tissue around the heart, tracheotomy, fluid aspiration from the pelvic area when intra-abdominal bleeding is suspected, and incision of a vein to facilitate insertion of an IV needle. The new AirSIM task trainer provides a realistic airway for practicing bronchoscopy and intubation.

This year, students in the College’s third-year pediatric clerkship began using simulation to train for infant and newborn pediatric emergencies, as well as lumbar puncture, intubation and blood draws on infants and small children.

More residency programs began using the Simulation Center in 2011, including those for internal medicine, radiation oncology, anesthesia and rheumatology. Second-year residents in internal medicine practice advanced life support and rapid response drills. Radiation oncology residents practice pelvic exam, breast exam, rectal exam and nasopharyngeal scoping first on a patient simulator and then on a standardized patient. Rheumatology fellows, residents, students and faculty practice joint injections, and anesthesiology residents run through remedial emergency cases. Faculty and alumni also benefit from the center’s programs. Last June on Faculty Day, faculty members used simulation to teach team-training by running a code of atrial fibrillation after a heart attack.

“The center’s goals are to better educate our students and residents, enhance patient safety and improve the quality of patient care,” says Kathleen Ryan, M.D., director of the center. “We will continue to leverage new technology and expand our programs to benefit learners in every phase of medical education.”

---

**Call for Nominations of Candidates for AOA Election**

*Attention all AOA Alumni and Faculty Members of Drexel University College of Medicine, Hahnemann & MCP Delta Zeta Chapter*

The Delta-Zeta Chapter of Alpha Omega Alpha is requesting nominations of candidates for AOA election. Following are the categories of candidates who will be considered.

**Residents and fellows:** The chapter may elect to membership 3 graduate trainees after their first year of training, based on continued achievement and promise.

**Alumnae/i:** After 10 years or more following graduation, alumnae/i who have distinguished themselves in their professional careers and are judged on the basis of achievement to be qualified, may be elected to membership. No more than 2 alum members per year may be elected.

**Faculty:** A chapter may elect to membership 2 faculty members each year from the faculty of the College of Medicine who have distinguished themselves in their professional careers and are judged on the basis of achievement to be qualified. Such faculty members must hold an earned doctoral degree.

Submit all nominations to Marie Hartman via email at mhartman@drexelmed.edu. Please include with your nomination a brief description of the nominee’s achievements. In the case of faculty, curriculum vitae must be provided. The deadline for submitting nominations is December 30, 2011.

We are also in the process of updating our Delta Zeta Chapter membership list. If you are an AOA member and would like to join the Delta Zeta Chapter of AOA, please contact Marie Hartman. In addition, if you are a current member and your email or mailing address has changed, please let us know so we can update our files. For more information about the Delta Zeta Chapter, upcoming elections or events, contact Dr. Allan Tunkel, AOA Councilor, or Marie Hartman in the Career Development Center.
Candace Robertson-James, MPH, instructor in medicine, research manager for the Women’s Health Education Program at the College, and health chair for the NAACP Pennsylvania State Conference, led a panel presentation, “Health Alert: Resuscitating Life for Future Generations – Alarming Challenges and Promising Opportunities” at the organization’s convention on October 22. Panelists included the deputy secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare, as well as representatives from the National NAACP Health Department, Berks County Office of Aging, and Philadelphia Ujima Collaborative. Serita Reels, MPH, research assistant at the Women’s Health Education Program, represented Philadelphia Ujima on the panel.

Ana Núñez, M.D., associate professor of medicine, and director of the Women’s Health Education Program, was one of six speakers invited to give testimony on health research needs and priorities to the Health Research Advisory Committee of the Pennsylvania Department of Health on September 27. The discussion focused on fiscal 2012-13 priorities for the Commonwealth Universal Research Enhancement Program.

On October 14-15, Núñez and Jill Foster, M.D., associate professor of pediatrics and director of the Dorothy Mann Center for Pediatric and Adolescent HIV at St. Christopher’s Hospital for Children, joined Harvard faculty in presenting a continuing medical education conference, Healing Health Care Disparities Through Education: An Interactive Faculty Development Program. Núñez presented “Medical Educational Tools to Address Gender Encounters.” Foster presented “Integrating Information About LGBTQ Issues into Medical Education.”

In addition, Núñez was a member of the panel “Let’s Talk: Health Literacy and Cultural Competency Researchers Working Together” at the 3rd Annual Health Literacy Research Conference October 17-18 in Chicago.

Drs. Ralph J. Petrucci, clinical professor, Departments of Psychiatry and Medicine; Shelley R. Hankins, assistant professor of medicine, and Howard Eisen, professor of medicine and chief, Division of Cardiology; and John W.C. Entwistle, associate professor, Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery, are authors of “Ethical Considerations for Ventricular Assist Device Support: A 10-Point Model” published in the July/August edition of ASAIO Journal.

Gerald Soslau, Ph.D., professor, Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology; Drexel University faculty Drs. Jacob A. Russell, assistant professor of biology, and James R. Spotila, Betz Chair Professor of Environmental Science, and Professional Studies alumni Andrew J. Mathew and Pamela Bagsiyao published a Research Letter, “Acinetobacter sp. HM746599 Isolated from Leatherback Turtle Blood,” in FEMS Microbiology Letters, September 2011 (first published online July 27).

Shufang Wu, Ph.D., research associate, and Francesco De Luca, M.D., professor, both in the Department of Pediatrics, co-authored “NF-kB p65 Interacts with Stat5b in Growth Plate Chondrocytes and Mediates the Effects of Growth Hormone on Chondrogenesis and on the Expression of Insulin-like Growth Factor-1 and Bone Morphogenetic Protein-2” published in the July 2011 issue of the Journal of Biological Chemistry.
The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General conducts an annual comprehensive work-planning process to identify the areas most worthy of attention in the coming year. The focus is on discovering and addressing weaknesses that lead to program loss through inefficiency, waste, improper payments, or fraud and abuse of healthcare funding.

The key issues of the 2012 work plan regarding Medicare physicians include “Incident-to Services” and “Evaluation and Management Services: Potentially Inappropriate Payments.” The “Incident-to Services” issue focuses on ensuring that services that are not provided by the physician are provided by qualified non-physicians who are authorized to be paid.

The “Evaluation and Management Services: Potentially Inappropriate Payments” issue focuses on assessing the extent to which the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services made potentially inappropriate payments for E/M services and the consistency of E/M medical review determinations. The review will include multiple E/M services for providers and beneficiaries to identify electronic health records documentation practices associated with potentially improper payments. Medicare contractors have noted an increased frequency of medical records with identical documentation across services. Medicare requires providers to select the code for the service based upon the service’s content and to have documentation to support the level of service reported.

The College of Medicine Compliance Office work plan for 2012 will reflect the 2012 HHS Office of Inspector General Work Plan as we design audit scope, education, and operational intervention for the coming year.

Submissions for Presentations & Publications 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. Thank you.
**Pediatric AIDS Benefit Concert February 18**

The 19th Annual Pediatric AIDS Benefit Concert (PABC) will take place at the Main Building at Drexel University’s Main Campus on February 18. The proceeds of this student-run event will help support the HIV/AIDS clinic at St. Christopher’s Hospital for Children, which provides medical care and social services for pediatric patients with HIV/AIDS and their families. The doors will open at 5 p.m. and the concert will begin at 6 p.m.

The night will include entertainment provided by our talented students and faculty, a wide variety of food donated by local restaurants, and the opportunity to bid on distinctive and valuable items at a silent auction. For further information, please contact Shay Myers at shay.myers@drexelmed.edu.

---

**Petition**

- **Simulation** 1, 11, 13
- **News & Events** 4
- **Alumni** 7
- **Compliance** 15

---

**Calendar:**

**January**
- National Thyroid Awareness Month
- Jan 13 SGA Winter Formal

**February**
- International Prenatal Infection Prevention Month
- Feb 18 Pediatric AIDS Benefit Concert
  - Main Building, Drexel University Main Campus
  - Information: Shay Myers, shay.myers@drexelmed.edu

**March**
- National Nutrition Month
- Mar 16 Match Day
  - Queen Lane Campus
  - Information: Shay Myers, shay.myers@drexelmed.edu

**April**
- National IBS Awareness Month
- Apr 4 Golden Apple Awards Ceremony
  - Queen Lane Campus, 5:30 p.m.
  - Information: Shay Myers, shay.myers@drexelmed.edu

**May**
- National Hepatitis Awareness Month
- May 4-5 Alumni Weekend
  - www.drexelmed.edu/alumni
- May 15 Senior Class Formal
- May 16-18 50 Year Reunion
  - www.drexelmed.edu/alumni
- May 18 Commencement
  - Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts, 9 a.m.
  - Information: Shay Myers, shay.myers@drexelmed.edu

**June**
- National Cataract Awareness Month
- Jun 15-16 University graduation ceremonies