



Designer Molecules Cause HIV to Self-Destruct

It started with a conversation between two scientists conducting basic HIV research on different Drexel campuses, one at the College of Medicine and one at the College of Engineering. That conversation led to a surprising breakthrough — the discovery of an entirely new approach for treatment and prevention of HIV, spearheaded by principal investigators Irwin Chaiken, Ph.D., a professor in the College of Medicine's Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, and Cameron Abrams, Ph.D., a professor in the College of Engineering's Department of Chemical & Biological Engineering. Their research team, which also includes scientists from the School of Biomedical Engineering,

Science & Health Systems, has been collaborating on the design of three molecular compositions that actually trick the HIV virus into destroying itself.

"Cameron and I discussed the concept that the HIV virus has the potential to auto-transform and release its genetic contents when stressed, reflecting a property of intrinsic fragility shared by many viruses," explains Chaiken. "The virus can be thought of as a sphere under pressure from the inside pushing out, like a balloon that is ready to pop. On the surface of the balloon is a protein spike that acts like a mousetrap with bait. When a healthy cell sees the bait, it binds to the spike. That binding process leads to

structural rearrangements in the spike that allow the membranes of the healthy cell and HIV cell to fuse together, enabling the contents of the virus to enter the healthy cell.

"That structural rearrangement is like the springing of the mousetrap," Chaiken continues. "Strikingly, the three molecular compositions we've developed trick the HIV cell into springing the mousetrap *before* it encounters a healthy cell. They do this by mimicking the force the HIV virion particle feels when it encounters a healthy cell. As a result, the HIV explodes and is destroyed before it can do any damage. While we were hoping to observe inactivation upon the binding of stress-inducing compounds to the virus spike, we have been gratified to be able to trigger the self-annihilation process with several spike-targeting compositions embodying different design strategies."

One of the compounds designed by the Drexel research team is DAVEI (dual action virolytic entry inhibitor), a chimeric recombinantly engineered protein — that is, a molecule assembled from pieces of other molecules and engineered for a specific purpose, in this case to fight HIV. This research was published in the October 2013 edition of the American Society for Microbiology's *Antimicrobial Agents*

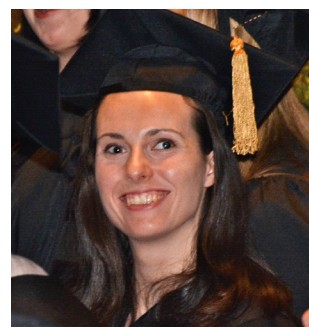


Doctoral student Rosemary Bastian, with Drs. Chaiken (center) and Abrams, made the initial discoveries of lytic inactivators of HIV-1 at Drexel.

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pulse

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Dean's Message

This year, for the first time, a dozen of our medical students are ensconced in California for their clinical rotations. These are third-year students who leapt at the opportunity to train at Kaiser Permanente hospitals in the Sacramento area. Kaiser Permanente offers a unique model for closely integrated health care, from health plan to primary care to hospital care.



Daniel V. Schidlow, M.D.

The association with Kaiser Permanente began in 2011 with shadowing experiences for premed students in our Interdepartmental Medical Science program at Drexel University Sacramento. However, over the last year and a half, we have worked assiduously at growing that relationship. We have been in frequent conversation with Kaiser officials — both I and University leadership — with the help and facilitation of Dr. Sandra Kirschenmann, the executive director and associate vice provost of Drexel University Sacramento.

A number of Kaiser physicians have received, and more will receive, appointments to the faculty of Drexel University College of Medicine. The medical students began at Kaiser Permanente in July and have given us very positive

feedback. There appears to be not only great enthusiasm, but also a lot of commitment from the Kaiser community in the area.

We are very pleased that our medical students have the chance to work in the Kaiser Permanente system, and we have talked to Kaiser people in Washington, D.C., and Maryland about the possibility of sending some students for primary care rotations. Our initial foray into northern California was thanks to the creation of Drexel University Sacramento, where we offer not only the IMS program, but also two master's programs; and Dr. Kirschenmann's office provides support for the medical students, as well. The fruitful connection with Kaiser Permanente was thanks to the College of Medicine's extended family: In a nice bit of serendipity, Dr. Joseph Karam, a former faculty member who completed his residency and two fellowships at Hahnemann, is on staff at Kaiser and arranged the shadowing program there.

**The students at
Kaiser Permanente
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Daniel V. Schidlow, M.D.

Walter H. and Leonore Annenberg Dean
Senior Vice President of Medical Affairs

Destination Excellence: A Faculty Member's Perspective

Dr. Gregg Alleyne, assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology, specializing in the care of women living with HIV and AIDS, and chief of the Division of General Obstetrics & Gynecology, has been a member of our academic community since 1994, completing his residency and then joining our faculty. His commitment to diversity, inclusion, and tolerance is evident in all aspects of his professional and personal life. I had the privilege of sitting down with him as he shared his views about the importance of diversity, its relationship to excellence, and what we as a community of scholars can do to continually improve the climate at Drexel.

— Mary M. Moran, M.D.
Vice Dean for Faculty Affairs &
Professional Development

How has diversity played a role in your career?

My background and education have influenced that greatly. I went to a college where the majority of students were white, and then to Howard for medical school. Both of these experiences shaped who I am today. At Howard, scholarship was emphasized, but the importance of service and giving back to the people of your community also was ingrained in me. I came to MCP [Medical College of Pennsylvania, one of the College of Medicine's predecessor schools] to do my residency. I didn't consciously realize it at the time but I know now that I was attracted to MCP's history and culture that fostered diversity.

I embrace diversity at all levels.

My patients are very diverse in their backgrounds, race, upbringing, and socioeconomic status. Each day I see healthcare disparities that exist and do my best to provide the same high-quality care to each of my patients. That is what I teach my students and residents. I have learned that I need to "meet my patients where they are," meaning that I need to understand where they live, if they have money for food, what the major stresses are in their lives, what their religious or spiritual beliefs are. These are the things that most impact my patients' health and my delivery of healthcare to each of them. This is not something that is formally taught during each of the four years of medical school in a longitudinal manner.

What are some other ways you support or further diversity?

I am a role model for my patients who are African American. They often raise me up. It is very humbling. Seeing me helps them believe that they too can be successful. I see this as an important part

of being a physician, educator, and member of my community.

I work hard to recruit faculty to my department from groups that are underrepresented in medicine, and I have been successful in doing so. All faculty need mentors; faculty of color have additional and specific needs that are often unmet. I do my best to make this a priority.

My wife and I specifically chose a school for our daughter that includes children representing 38 nationalities. She is 11 and can speak two languages and is learning two additional languages. She is learning to embrace differences. She is learning tolerance and that conflict is a tool for education.

How do you see the relationship between diversity and excellence?

When I think of diversity, I think of collaboration. Collaboration leads to innovation. Innovation leads to excellence. A diverse group of individuals comes up with the best solutions because they draw on their varied and collective experience.

What can we do here to recruit and retain individuals who are underrepresented in medicine?

- Create a mentoring program that addresses unique issues faced by individuals underrepresented in medicine.
- Expose students to clinician role models earlier in their training. Prior to the third year, students of color have very limited access to mentors who understand some of their specific needs.
- Create a formal longitudinal curriculum that teaches students to get to know and understand the background and life situation of each patient beyond his or her medical diagnosis.



Dr. Gregg Alleyne talked to Dr. Mary Moran about diversity in both his personal and his professional life.

Call for Nominations of Candidates for AOA Election

Deadline: December 31

Attention all AOA Alumni and Faculty Members of Drexel University College of Medicine, Hahnemann, and 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 up to 6 graduate trainees after their first year of training, based on continued achievement and promise.

Alumni: After 10 years or more following graduation, alumni 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 5 alumni members per year may be elected.

Faculty: A chapter may elect to membership up to 5 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, a curriculum vitae must be provided. The deadline for submitting nominations is December 31, 2013.

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 and upcoming elections or events, contact Dr. Kathy Ryan, AOA councilor, at kryan@drexelmed.edu, or Marie Hartman, director of the Career Development Center, at mhartman@drexelmed.edu.

Designer molecules

• continued from the cover

and Chemotherapy. Research for the other two compositions — peptide triazole thiols and gold nanoparticle peptide triazoles — was published in *ChemMedChem* in 2011. Rosemary Bastian, a Ph.D. candidate in the School of Biomedical Engineering, Science & Health Systems who works in the Chaiken lab at the College of Medicine, was first author of the 2011 paper.

Though the three compounds seem to work by different mechanisms, all three have one thing in common: they hijack the HIV virus by targeting the property that maintains its metastability, or unstable equilibrium.

"We are hopeful that our findings will help stimulate paths to prevention and treatment," states Chaiken. "Among other things, we have ideas for how to use the peptide triazole thiols and the gold nanoparticle peptide

triazoles to prevent new virus formation from infected cells. This may provide a way to attack latently infected cells, which is a major goal in HIV research."

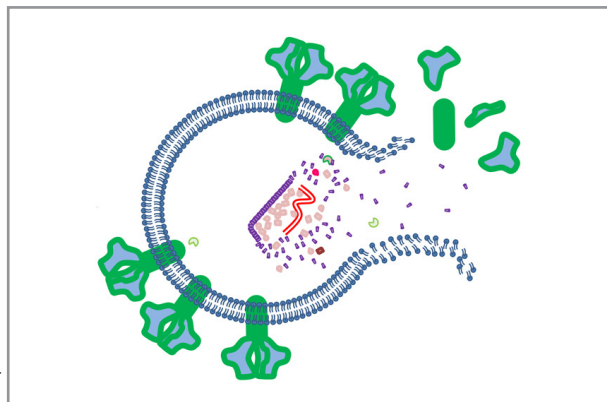
More work is needed to improve the stability of these compounds before actual anti-HIV therapies can be developed from them, according to Chaiken. It is hoped that, ultimately, the compounds could be used as a topical microbicide, potentially killing viruses in a vaginal or rectal environment when the individual is first exposed to the virus. However, proteases (enzymes) exist in those environments that can degrade the peptide triazole thiols. Chaiken, Abrams, and their research team aim to find a way to better stabilize the compositions through redesign.

"We also need to better understand the mechanism that makes these compositions work and determine how best to take advantage of their virus-killing elements," says Chaiken. "We hope to identify a path to pre-clinical testing within the next three to five years."

Chaiken adds that the peptide triazole compounds may also provide an avenue for the development of a therapeutic vaccine, a concept that has been proposed by Jeffrey Jacobson, M.D., a professor of medicine in the Division of Infectious Diseases and HIV Medicine and chair of the Translational Research and Drug Development Committee of the AIDS Clinical Trials Group at the College of Medicine. Chaiken and Abrams hope to collaborate on this with Jacobson and his research partner, Michele Kutzler, Ph.D., an assistant professor of medicine in the Division of Infectious Diseases and HIV Medicine and the Department of Microbiology and Immunology.

"We have hit upon something that was very unexpected," says Chaiken. "Now that we have these compositions, we have new opportunities to try to develop realistic methods of HIV intervention and prevention."

Graphic: Cameron Abrams, Ph.D.



When designer molecules home in and bind specifically to the HIV-1 surface protein, the virus is tricked into self-annihilation.

Family Legacy Spans 100+ Years

More than 100 years ago, Mary Fitch Tooker (born Mary Elliott “Minnie” Fitch) proudly marched down the aisle of the Academy of Music to receive her medical degree as a member of the Woman’s Medical College Class of 1900. At this year’s commencement held in the Kimmel Center, her great-granddaughter, Alice Dodds, continued the family legacy by receiving her medical degree from Drexel University College of Medicine, successor to Woman’s Medical College.

Inspired by her great-grandmother, Dodds chose to attend the College of Medicine because of its continuing legacy of providing a supportive environment for women who want to become physicians. “My mother recalls my great-grandmother saying that she enjoyed her studies at Woman’s Medical College,” says Dodds. “She liked being around other women who were intelligent, dedicated, and shared her interests. And she felt that the College prepared her well for her career as a physician.”

And an adventurous career it was! Tooker was born in Shanghai, China, into a family of American medical missionaries. Her parents sent her back to the States to attend college and medical school. When she graduated from Woman’s Medical College at the turn of the 20th century, a foreign mission movement was in full swing in the U.S. She was recruited by the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions to serve as a physician in a new women’s hospital being built in Suchow, China, by the man who was to become her father-in-law.

“In China, women wouldn’t go to a hospital with male patients or be examined by a male physician,” explains Tooker’s daughter, Alice Tooker, a retired nurse who will turn 100 this year. “Instead of a physical exam, male doctors had to make diagnoses using a small statue of a woman; they asked female patients to point to the part of the body on the statue where they were having a problem. Female physicians were badly needed.”

Minnie Tooker returned to China with her future husband, Frederick J. Tooker, whom she married in 1907. After serving on the staff of Women’s Hospital in Suchow, Tooker joined her husband to practice medicine in Hunan and Kuling, where they founded a hospital and university. They also served at two other hospitals and cared for British and American boarding school students.

“My great-grandmother was a general physician but, back then, she did whatever needed to be done — everything from internal medicine to surgery,” says Dodds.

As their family grew to include six children, the Tookers built a home in a mountainous area near Kuling. During the summer months, one of their neighbors was Chiang Kai-shek, the late president of the Republic of China. Once in a while, Madame Chiang would call the Tookers for a medical consultation when someone in their household was ill, according to Alice Tooker.

Dodds notes, “My great-grandmother lived in China at a very volatile time in its history, when there were wars and uprisings. My great-aunt Alice remembers their village being invaded by looters who were targeting people considered wealthy, such as physicians, so my great-grandparents evacuated the house with their children, taking what they could through the mountains of China to a safe zone. Somehow, they managed to drag their prized grand piano seven miles through the mountains.”

Since graduating, Dodds has begun a psychiatry residency at New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center. The daughter of a pediatrician, she hopes to pursue a career in child psychiatry. “When you can make a difference in a child’s mental health and emotional life,” she says, “you dramatically improve their lives altogether. It was always important to my great-grandmother to be of service to others,” she reflects. “Now I hope to do the same.”



**Alice Dodds, 2013
Minnie Tooker, 1900**

Garden Park at Queen Lane Designed and Built by Students

A new amenity at the Queen Lane Campus — a garden park with hammocks and horseshoes — has been created in a little-used open area behind the school. Teri Miller, a second-year medical student, planned and led the project, which was funded by the Student Government Association as a lasting improvement to the quality of life on campus.



Teri Miller

The Queen Lane grounds director, Jim Vecchione, collaborated with Miller on appropriate materials and supplies. Then Miller organized teams to lay concrete, build the foundation for a prefabricated garden shed, install posts for the hammocks, plant trees, and so on. There is a picnic area with tables, and a permanent park-style barbecue is to come. Facilities supplied the tables, and grounds supplied the tools, but the students did all the construction work themselves. “We had first-years, a bunch of second-years, third-years, some Ph.D. students, and a student from one of Drexel’s post-baccalaureate programs — a pretty well-rounded crew,” Miller said. She believes that everyone at Queen Lane will benefit from this outdoor recreational space for years to come.



Dr. Michael Green Named Chair of Anesthesiology & Perioperative Medicine

Michael S. Green, D.O., has been appointed chair of the Department of Anesthesiology & Perioperative Medicine at Drexel University College of Medicine. Green is an associate professor of anesthesiology and director of the Anesthesiology Residency Program. He had been serving as interim chair since February 2012.

Green received his degree in osteopathic medicine from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey and completed the Drexel/Hahnemann Anesthesiology Residency Program, serving as chief resident in his final year. He is a diplomate of the American Board of Anesthesiology.

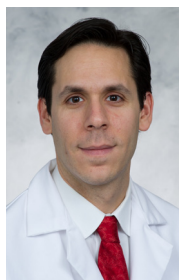
In 2007, Green joined the Drexel faculty as an instructor and became an attending at Hahnemann University Hospital. He also was named assistant program director of the Anesthesiology Residency Program; he became director in 2010. Green has been responsible for

the development and implementation of all aspects of his department’s educational program, revised most recently in July 2012. He is a recipient of the Excellence in Clinical

Service Award of Hahnemann University Hospital, and the Golden Laryngoscope Award and Resident Teaching Award of the College’s Department of Anesthesiology. Since March 2012, he has been clinical service chief at the hospital.

Green has served on numerous College and hospital committees. He has received several research grants and is an author of nearly 60 book chapters, papers, abstracts, and editorials.

He is a member of the editorial board of the *International Journal of Clinical Anesthesiology* and is a reviewer for *Journal of Clinical Anesthesia*, *Journal of Cardiothoracic and Vascular Anesthesia*, *Annals of Thoracic Surgery*, and *Minerva Anestesiologica*.



Drexel Cardiology and Sejong Hospital: The Feeling Is Mutual

Over the past two years, the Division of Cardiology at the College of Medicine has developed a strong affiliation with Sejong General Hospital, a cardiovascular hospital in Seoul, South Korea. Technology helps bridge the distance of 6,931 miles and 13 time zones, but travel has also been important, affording physicians, nurses, and residents the opportunity to work together in hands-on fashion.

Drs. Howard J. Eisen, Thomas J. Vischer Professor of Medicine and chief of the Division of Cardiology, and Gary S. Ledley, professor of medicine in the Division of Cardiology, were invited guest speakers at the Sejong Cardiovascular Symposia in 2011 and 2012. Last July, Eisen spent a week at Sejong helping set up a heart transplant program along with Diane Snipas, R.N., a Hahnemann cardiac transplant nurse coordinator. This work was continued later in the month by assistant professor Dr. Shelley Hankins.

Sejong in turn has sent physicians and nurses to spend time at the College of Medicine, including visits from the head of cardiac catheterization, a newly recruited heart failure/transplant faculty member, and Dr. Jinsik Park, president and CEO of Sejong General Hospital. Park was here from September to December 2012 and visited again in March 2013, with Sejong's director of heart failure and its future transplant coordinator.

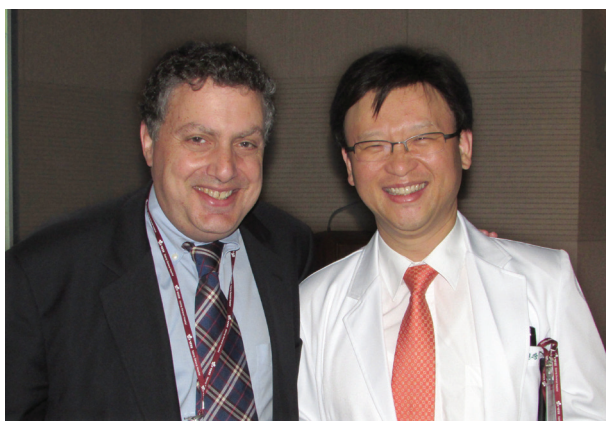
The four transplant centers in South Korea perform 100 transplants a year, while U.S. centers perform 2,300. In Korea the number of transplants is limited by the number of recipients, Eisen explained, whereas here it is limited by the number of donors. The intention is to make Sejong a transplant center, drawing patients from other countries, as well.

Sejong also sent four residents to rotate in cardiology and medicine in 2012/13 in the Drexel/Hahnemann residency program, and four more began in September. Five Sejong cardiologists have Drexel faculty appointments and more will have appointments in the near future. The Drexel/Hahnemann Cardiology Fellowship Program will send

cardiology fellows to Sejong in 2014. Medical students can also rotate there, although none have done so yet.

Members of Drexel Cardiology have a monthly joint teleconference with Sejong, in which each side presents an unusual case, followed by discussion. The conference is directed stateside by Ledley and is held on the last Thursday of the month at 6 p.m. EST (7 a.m. Friday Korean time).

Eisen is clear that the benefits are mutual. Sejong has the best congenital heart surgery program in Korea, he says. The surgeons are outstanding and the heart surgery is very sophisticated (the Korean government will not pay for ventricular assist devices). Korean surgeons also can do things that have not been approved by the U.S. Food & Drug Administration. When Sejong does its first transplants, in 2014, Eisen said, a group from the College of Medicine will probably go to Korea again.



Dr. Howard Eisen (left) spent a week at Sejong General Hospital in Seoul last summer. Dr. Jinsik Park, president and CEO of the hospital, and an adjunct clinical associate professor at Drexel University College of Medicine, spent several months last year with Drexel Cardiology and has been instrumental in developing the relationship between the school and the hospital.

National Multiple Sclerosis Society Names Drexel Neurology a 'Partner in Care'



The National Multiple Sclerosis Society recently named Drexel Neurology and MS specialist David Tabby, D.O., a Partner in MS Care. This designation is for healthcare professionals who demonstrate knowledge of and expertise in MS care, have a special interest in treating people with MS, and work closely with the national organization. It recognizes optimal care to individuals and families living with MS, who often have specific needs.

Tabby, an associate professor in the Department of Neurology, directs the MS program at Drexel Neurology and the College of Medicine. He has worked closely with the National Multiple Sclerosis Society for many years, serving as a committee member, guest speaker, and active Bike MS fundraiser. He was also a founding member of the Philadelphia chapter's Disease Management Work Group, designed to help those with MS get access to the best care possible. Tabby treats patients at Drexel Neurology in Center City and at Parkview Health Center, a community health center in North Philadelphia. Drexel Neurology: 215-762-6915

Institute Celebrates 20 Years of Advancing Women

During the last 20 years, medical education and healthcare delivery in the United States have changed to reflect the growing awareness of sex and gender differences in disease and treatment. Drexel University College of Medicine and its predecessor institutions have been at the forefront of this revolution. The Institute for Women's Health and Leadership at the College celebrated its 20th anniversary in September with two days of stimulating events that attracted speakers and panelists of national stature. They reflected on the accomplishments of the past two decades, discussed current best practices, and identified future challenges.

Vivian Pinn, M.D., the first full-time director of the Office of Research on Women's Health at the National Institutes of Health traced the evolution of research and thinking on women's health from the '60s to the present day. Her talk was riveting, studded with milestones that remind us what it took to get things done. In 1989, for example, three members of Congress asked the General Accounting Office to determine how many women were being included in study populations for clinical trials; and in 1993, Congress passed a law as part of the NIH revitalization act, requiring the inclusion of women and minorities in NIH-funded studies.

Sex differences in the brain and the implications for sex differences in medicine were addressed by Jill Goldstein, Ph.D., a clinical neuroscientist, who is a professor of psychiatry and medicine at Harvard Medical School and director of research at the Connors Center for Women's Health & Gender Biology, Brigham & Women's Hospital.

Other talks and discussions featured many of the College's own luminaries, among them Lynn Yeakel, director of the Institute for Women's Health and Leadership; Glenda Donoghue, M.D., former director of the institute; Joanne Murray, director of the Legacy Center; and Sandra Levison, M.D., founding director of the Women's Health Education Program.

At the end of the day, *New York Times* columnist Nicholas Kristof, co-author of *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide*, spoke about discrimination against women around the world, including sex-selective abortion and human trafficking, as well as the synergistic results of sometimes non-intuitive interventions. "To help women, you do not necessarily have to focus on them," he said. "For example, slowing the spread of AIDS reduces the chance that men will affect their partners."



Dr. Vivian Pinn (left), the first full-time director of the Office of Research on Women's Health at the National Institutes of Health, congratulates Dr. Bernice Sandler, the "godmother of Title IX," on receiving the honorary degree Doctor of Humane Letters, presented by Drexel President John A. Fry.

The second day was dedicated to leadership, beginning with the Marion Spencer Fay lecture and award presentation to Nancy Andrews, M.D., dean of Duke University School of Medicine. Andrews was honored for her research; her contributions in medicine, education, and community service; and her leadership. A panel and workshop on shared leadership among women and men was facilitated by Catalyst, a national nonprofit consulting organization advocating for inclusive workplaces.

The Leadership Forum concluded with the special recognition of D. Walter Cohen, DDS, chancellor emeritus of the College of Medicine, and the presentation of an honorary degree to Dr. Bernice Sandler, a women's rights champion known as the godmother of Title IX*. Title IX is often referred to as the sports law, and most of its visibility has been in the area of athletics, but Title IX has radically changed the American educational landscape, including ending quotas for women in medical school, Sandler said. "What Title IX has done, along with the women's movement, is to help boys and girls, men and women respect each other." But she added, "We have only taken the very first steps of a very, very long journey."

**Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 is a comprehensive federal law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in any federally funded education program or activity.*

College Hosts Student National Medical Association Leadership Retreat

More than 100 medical and premedical students gathered at the College of Medicine's Queen Lane Campus for the annual Student National Medical Association Region VIII Leadership Retreat on September 21. The title of the conference was "Being a Leader: Extending Your Reach." The keynote speaker, Dan Gebremedhin, M.D., MBA, is currently the associate medical director for trend management at the Harvard Pilgrim Health Plan in Cambridge, Mass. Nicole Zehnder, M.D., an assistant professor of medicine at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, spoke on the topic "Building Leadership Skills: Conflict Negotiation." Additional panels and presentations were held for the medical students, and workshops on MCAT review and the application process were offered for the premed students.

Nearly all the participants stayed for the afternoon community service event — a bone marrow donor drive, for which the students had cheek swabs to type their bone marrow so it could be recorded in the National Bone Marrow Registry. According to the Be the Match Foundation, only 10 percent of donors on the registry are Hispanic; 7 percent, African American; and 7 percent, Asian.

The Student National Medical Association, founded in 1964, is the oldest and largest student-run organization focused on the needs and concerns of medical students of color. Membership includes more than 6,000 medical students, premedical students, residents, and physicians. Region VIII comprises the association's chapters in Pennsylvania, Delaware, and West Virginia.



The leadership team from SNMA Region VIII and speakers from the retreat

Brave New World?

During a talk on the evolution of research in women's health (see page 8), Dr. Vivian Pinn slipped in a surprising slide: an image of the new LEGO Scientist. One of 16 Minifigures introduced in September of this year, it is the first female scientist that LEGO has made. "The brilliant Scientist's specialty is finding new and interesting ways to combine things together," her online bio says. Women in biomedical careers have made progress but face many of the same barriers as before, Pinn said.



Image: The LEGO Group

Compliance & Privacy

We Never Guess ... We Ask!

Another academic year is well under way. We hope our readers are not guessing and that they are asking! We like to focus on our tag line in a fall column designed to enlighten new readers and refresh the veteran Compliance & Privacy reader on our thoughts about guessing versus asking.



Edward Longazel
Chief Compliance & Privacy Officer

We trust that faculty, staff, and students do not guess on issues of right versus wrong. A broad array of policies and procedures exists for any institution with patients and insurance payments. Place the complexity of health-care provision amidst the missions of education and research

in an academic setting, with a new national approach to healthcare, and the regulatory environment becomes a tangle of overlapping state, federal, and accreditation agency regulations. Federal requirements offer incentives and penalties for the failure to provide and document quality care.

The College of Medicine community should not be guessing on questions of policy and procedure regarding conflict of interest, the code of conduct, medical record documentation, encryption, or billing and reimbursement regulations. We should not be guessing on Human Resources policies regarding timekeeping, time off, and progressive discipline, or harassment or email behavior. We should not be guessing about access, use, or disclosure of patient information. HIPAA Privacy and Security rules give our patients guaranteed federal rights that challenge us with specific responsibilities to protect medical information from improper disclosure or access. Penalties can be as high as \$1.5 million per violation.

Feel comfortable adopting "We ask" as your policy. Pose that one nagging question, or request training on a topic or issue of particular interest at a department, division, or activity level. The Compliance & Privacy Office, the director of compliance services, and the director of privacy services are eager and ready to give thoughtful consideration to your questions and, when necessary, to triage tough issues to experts with the appropriate administrative, legal, or risk management resources to provide answers.

An independent confidential hotline is also available to report sensitive issues and concerns when confidentiality is important and investigations may be in order.

We never guess ... we ask! Call anytime to ask a compliance or privacy question, or to request compliance or privacy training: 215-255-7819

Confidential compliance hotline: 866-936-1010 or visit drexelmed.edu/ComplianceHotline

Emergency Medicine Sponsors Center for Victims of Sexual Assault

In August, Mayor Nutter presided over the official opening of the Philadelphia Safety Collaborative, a 42,000-square-foot facility that brings the city's Department of Human Services, the nonprofit Philadelphia Children's Alliance, the police Special Victims Unit, and the Philadelphia Sexual Assault Response Center together under one roof. The center is there, just down the hall from the SVU, thanks to Drs. Ralph Riviello and Richard Hamilton of Drexel Emergency Medicine.

Riviello is a member of the Philadelphia Sexual Assault Advisory Committee. For years, that committee, representing the Philadelphia Police Department, the District Attorney's Office, healthcare institutions, universities, and nonprofits like Women Organized Against Rape, has worked to improve the provision of medical services to rape victims. Members envisioned a dedicated center staffed by specially trained nurses, where rape victims could go for forensic evaluation. There would be more privacy and less waiting than in a hospital emergency room. The city favored the idea but could not commit the funding. The committee tried without success to find a host or sponsor in another agency and even considered forming its own nonprofit.

When Riviello, an associate professor of emergency medicine and director of the Division of Forensic Medicine, mentioned the situation to Hamilton, his department chair, Hamilton suggested bringing the center under Drexel Emergency Medicine as an off-site location. With a budget and approvals in hand, the Department of Emergency Medicine opened the first Philadelphia Sexual Assault Response Center, in the same building

as the SVU, on May 11, 2011. The center moved to the new Philadelphia Safety Collaborative in August, occupying 1,300 square feet the department leased from the city. Riviello is the center's medical director. Michael Boyle, a retired SVU lieutenant, is employed by the College as the program director, handling day-to-day operations.

"It's great that the College has supported the project," said Riviello. "It fits perfectly with our commitment to community involvement, as well as our legacy from Woman's Medical College and our women-focused [programs]: the Drexel Center for Women's Health, the Women's Health Education Program, and the Institute for Women's Health and Leadership."

The center sees victims who are 16 years of age or older (younger victims go to St. Christopher's Hospital for Children or The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia). Since opening, the center has received 1,100 cases; in about 8 percent of the cases the victim was male. Each victim is seen by one of 17 specially trained sexual assault nurse examiners (SANEs), who take call 24/7. The SANE nurse examines the victim for injury and collects evidence using a commercial rape kit. The nurse and patient also discuss prophylaxis, if indicated, for pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, and HIV, and corresponding medication is given as needed.

Reimbursement is available to the center for some of the drugs. Starter packs of anti-HIV medication are partially covered, for example. The ideal is to keep the program budget neutral. The center bills the victims' compensation assistance program in Harrisburg for rape exams, and Drexel Institutional Advancement seeks grants for the center. One of the advantages of funding the center through the College is that Drexel already has systems in place — Human Resources, Payroll, Procurement's preferred vendor discounts — whose use means great savings over running a separate nonprofit.

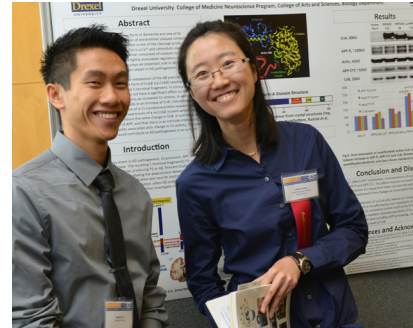
At the end of the day, though, it is the support of the Department of Emergency Medicine and the College that makes the program go. Information (non-emergency number): 215-800-1589



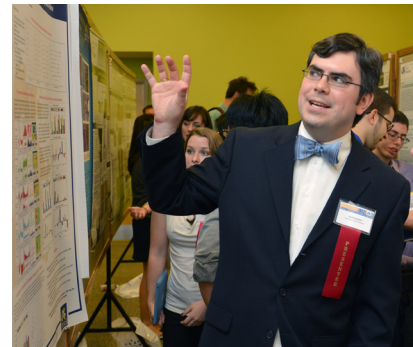
Philadelphia Sexual Assault Response Center



Drs. Michele Kutzler and Kenny Simansky



Medical student Randall Lee and graduate student Haizhi Wang



Biomedical engineering student David Kowalski



Platform prize winner Olga Mozgova

Discovery 2013

Discovery Day, the College of Medicine's annual day of research, was held on October 3 at the Queen Lane Campus. In the morning, more than 290 poster presentations filled the Student Activity Center and the atrium, which were crowded with interested faculty, students, staff, and visitors, in addition to the official judges.

In the afternoon, Donald E. Ingber, M.D., Ph.D., founding director of the Wyss Institute for Biologically Inspired Engineering and the Judah Folkman Professor of Vascular Biology, Harvard Medical School and Boston Children's Hospital, gave the L.M. "Bill" Stephenson Lecture, "Programmable Nanotherapeutics and Organs on Chips." The Joseph R. DiPalma Research Symposium, consisting of platform presentations by eight graduate students, concluded the academic activities of the day. At the subsequent dinner and ceremony honoring the participants, the event's guiding force, Barry Waterhouse, Ph.D., vice dean for Biomedical Graduate & Postgraduate Studies, received a surprise award and a standing ovation.

The Graduate Alumni Research Forum, which begins each year on the eve of Discovery Day, included the Graduate Citation Award lecture, given by James Burns, Ph.D., HU '89, professor in the Department of Microbiology & Immunology.

Poster and Platform First Prize Winners

Outstanding Platform Presentation

Olga Mozgova, Neuroscience

Outstanding Senior Graduate Student Poster

Kelley Healey, Microbiology & Immunology

Outstanding Junior Graduate Student Poster

Kristina Shahriari, Pharmacology & Physiology
(M.D./Ph.D. student)

Outstanding Postdoctoral Fellow Poster

Ryan Eberwine, Ph.D., Microbiology & Immunology

Outstanding Clinical Resident/Fellow Research Poster

Shailendra Singh, M.D., Internal Medicine

Outstanding Clinical Resident/Fellow Case Studies and Community Projects Poster

Meghan Berkenstock, M.D., Ophthalmology

Outstanding Medical Student Poster

Ronald Paranal

Outstanding Research Assistant Poster

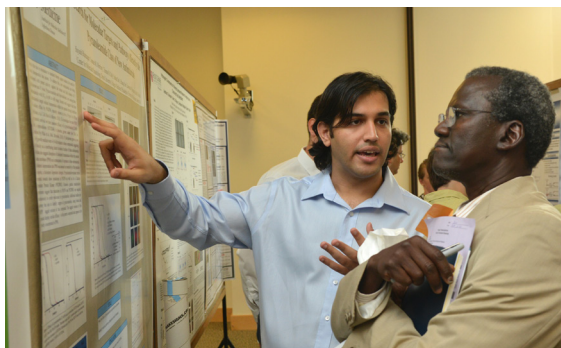
Vladimir Limonnik, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology

Outstanding Undergraduate Poster

Mary-Katharine McMullen, University of Pennsylvania



Drs. Barry Waterhouse, Akhil Vaidya, and James Burns



*Doctoral student Suyash Bhatnagar and judge
Dr. Abdel Bior of Cheyney University*

Other Honors

Basic Scientist Research Award

Ramesh Raghupathi, Ph.D., Neurobiology & Anatomy

Young Investigator Award

Rodrigo España, Ph.D., Neurobiology & Anatomy
Michele Kutzler, Ph.D., Medicine (Infectious Disease),
Microbiology & Immunology

Outstanding Contribution to Discovery Award

Barry Waterhouse, Ph.D.

Graduate Citation Award

James Burns, Ph.D., Microbiology & Immunology

Bondi Award (for a continuing Ph.D. student)

Gokul Swaminathan, Microbiology & Immunology





Dr. Brady

Drs. Luther W. Brady, M.D., Distinguished University Professor, Hylda Cohn/American Cancer Society Professor of Clinical Oncology, and professor of radiation oncology; **Rachelle Lanciano**, adjunct clinical associate professor; **John Lamond**, adjunct clinical assistant

professor; and **Jun Yang**, adjunct clinical assistant professor, won first prize for their poster "Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy (SBRT) for the Primary Treatment of Localized Prostate Cancer" at the Pennsylvania Society of Oncology and Hematology annual scientific meeting. Their poster "Review of Cyberknife-Delivered Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy for Lung Metastases" took second prize. **Abhishek Mishra**, a second-year medical student, was also an author of the lung poster.



Dr. Cabry

Robert J. Cabry, M.D., assistant professor, Department of Family, Community & Preventive Medicine, and co-director of the Sports Medicine Fellowship, traveled to China as team physician for U.S. Figure Skating for the Cup of China, November 1-3.



Dr. Cruz

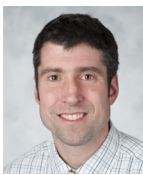


Dr. McColgan

Mario Cruz, M.D., assistant professor of pediatrics, is a co-author of "Screening and Intervention for Intimate Partner Violence," published in the May 2013 issue of *Contemporary Pediatrics*. He is also an author with **Maria McColgan, M.D.**, associate professor of pediatrics, and colleagues of "Referral Patterns and Service Utilization in a Pediatric Hospital-wide Intimate



Dr. Pachter



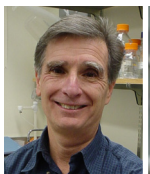
Dr. Taylor

Partner Violence Program," in the August 2013 issue of *Child Abuse & Neglect* (first published online April 25, 2013). In October, Cruz and co-authors, including **Drs. Lee Pachter**, professor of pediatrics; **Daniel Taylor**, associate professor of pediatrics; and **Nancy Spector**, professor



Dr. Spector

of pediatrics, published "An Educational Module for Pediatric Residents on Community, Home and School Violence" on the AAMC's MedEdPORTAL (the 90-minute case-based module is available at mededportal.org/publication/9558).



Dr. Chaiken



Dr. Abrams

Irwin Chaiken, Ph.D., professor, Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology; Biomedical Engineering doctoral students **A. Rosemary Bastian** and **R.V. Kalyana**

Sundaram, who work in the Chaiken lab; **Caitlin Duffy**, research assistant, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology; **Cameron Abrams, Ph.D.**, professor of chemical and biological engineering in the College of Engineering, and professor of biochemistry and molecular biology in the College of Medicine; College of Engineering doctoral student **Michelle Baker**, who works in the Abrams lab; and colleagues published "Chimeric Cyanovirin-MPER Recombinantly Engineered Proteins Cause Cell-Free Virolysis of HIV-1" in the October 2013 issue of *Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy*. (See cover story.)



Dr. Chang



Dr. Mehta

Jinhong Chang, M.D., Ph.D., research associate professor; **Fang Guo, M.D., Ph.D.**, research associate; **Mary Ann Comunale, M.S.**, research instructor; **Ju-Tao Guo, M.D.**, associ-



Dr. Block

ate professor; **Anand Mehta, D.Phil.**, professor; **Andrea Cuconati, Ph.D.**, adjunct assistant professor; **Xiaodong Xu, Ph.D.**, adjunct associate professor; **Timothy M. Block, Ph.D.**, professor, all in the Department of Microbiology & Immunology, working at the Drexel Institute

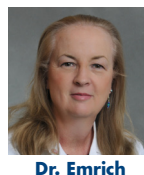
for Biotechnology & Virology Research, and colleagues published "Small Molecule Inhibitors of ER α -Glucosidases Are Active Against Multiple Hemorrhagic Fever Viruses" in the June 2013 *Antiviral Research* (published online April 8, 2013).

Simon Cocklin, Ph.D., assistant professor of biochemistry and molecular biology, received a grant in the amount of \$100,000 from W. W. Smith Charitable Trust for "Deciphering the Mechanism of Action of a Novel HIV-1 Entry Inhibitor." Cocklin's year-long research addresses the need for an innovative line of attack to prevent global HIV-1 infection. Cocklin will examine the mechanism of action of his previously developed, novel entry HIV-1 inhibitor with potency in the nanomolar range.



Dr. Eisen

Howard J. Eisen, M.D., Thomas J. Vischer Professor of Medicine and chief of the Division of Cardiology, was the chair of the Data Safety Monitoring Committee of the SERAPHIN study, sponsored by Actelion of Basel, Switzerland. The results of the study were published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* on August 29, 2013. This was an international, multicenter, double-blind, placebo-controlled study of the endothelin-receptor antagonist macitentan in patients with pulmonary hypertension.



Dr. Emrich

Jacqueline Emrich, Ph.D., professor, Department of Radiation Oncology, gave an oral presentation, "Episcleral Plaque Radiotherapy for Retinoblastoma: Treatment and Outcomes," at the 55th annual meeting of the American Society for Radiation Oncology held in Atlanta on September 23.



Ms. Ferrer

Christina M. Ferrer, a Ph.D. candidate in the Molecular & Cell Biology & Genetics Program, was awarded a National Cancer Institute NRSA F31 predoctoral fellowship of \$125,000 over three years for her doctoral studies titled "Understanding Role of O-GlcNAcylation on Cancer Metabolism and Survival." Ferrer is doing thesis work in the laboratory of **Mauricio Reginato, Ph.D.**, associate professor, Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology.



Mr. Karakashev

Sergey V. Karakashev, a Ph.D. candidate in the Biochemistry Program, was selected to present his research, "Hypoxia Induces Lapatinib Resistance in ErbB2-Positive Breast Cancer Cells via Regulation of DUSP2," as a short talk at the Third American Association of Cancer Research International Conference on Frontiers in Basic Cancer Research, held September 18-22 in National Harbor, Md. Karakashev is doing thesis work in the laboratory of **Mauricio Reginato, Ph.D.**, associate professor, Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology.



Dr. Núñez

Ana Núñez, M.D., professor of medicine, associate dean of urban health equity, education and research, and director of the Women's Health Education Program, was the Invited David Satcher, M.D., Ph.D. Visiting Professor at Vanderbilt University, September 9-10. She gave the annual

Flexner/Satcher Lecture, "Finding the Personal in Personalized Medicine: Tools and Strategies Toward Health Equity." She also presented "The Data of Difference" to faculty and students in the Master of Public Health epidemiology course; developed and facilitated "Role of TACCT and Other Novel Curricular Interventions to Include Diversity and Inclusion," a curricular workshop for medical and public health faculty; and collaborated in a roundtable discussion regarding institutional change and advancement of underrepresented minority members and women in medicine.



Dr. Poli

Jaganmohan Poli, M.D., assistant professor of radiation oncology, received an Educator of the Year Award from the Association for Residents in Radiation Oncology. The organization recognized 56 educators from across the country as outstanding teachers and mentors.



Dr. Reiff

Jay Reiff, Ph.D., professor and chief of physics, Department of Radiation Oncology, gave an oral presentation, "Dosimetry of 108 Strut-Based Accelerated Partial Breast Irradiation [APBI] Treatments With Applicator Distance Less Than 7 mm From Both the Skin and Ribs," at the 55th

annual meeting of the American Association of Physicists in Medicine, held August 4-8 in Indianapolis. He also presented a poster, "Dosimetric Analysis of 1007 Strut-Based APBI Treatments," at the 55th annual meeting of the

Calendar

November

American Diabetes Month

- 10 **Neuroscience Reception**
In conjunction with Society for Neuroscience annual meeting
San Diego Marriott Marquis & Marina, 6:30–8:30 p.m.
Information or online registration: drexelmed.edu/alumni-events
- 16 **Ophthalmology Reception**
In conjunction with American Academy of Ophthalmology annual meeting
New Orleans Marriott, 6:30–8:30 p.m.
Information or online registration: drexelmed.edu/alumni-events

19 Medical Aspects of Space Flight



Dr. Bagian

The Henry Rosenberg, M.D. Endowed Lectureship in Anesthesiology, presented by James P. Bagian, M.D., Ph.D. New College Building, Geary Auditorium B, 5–6 p.m.

December

Safe Toys and Gifts Month

- 1 **World AIDS Day**
worldaidscampaign.org/
- 4 **DUCOM Classical Winter Recital**
Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia, 8 p.m.
1906 S. Rittenhouse Square
Donations accepted at the door.
RSVP: ducomclassical@gmail.com

2014 Save the Dates

- Jan 24 **A Day with the Newborn**
Email: kathy.rellstab@tenethealth.com
- Feb 15 **Pediatric AIDS Benefit Concert**
- Mar 21 **Match Day**
- May 2-3 **Alumni Weekend**
- May 14-16 **50-Year Reunion**
- May 16 **Commencement**
50-Year and Grand Classes Luncheon

For more information about alumni events, please call 215-255-7345 or 866-373-9633 (toll-free), or email medical.alumni@drexel.edu.

American Society for Radiation Oncology, held September 22-25 in Atlanta. In addition, Reiff was a co-editor of *Encyclopedia of Radiation Oncology* (Springer-Verlag, 2013) to which he contributed three chapters: "Eye Plaque Physics," "Image Guided Radiation Therapy — MV Imaging," and "Radiation Oncology Physics."



Dr. Stabile

Richard J. Stabile, M.D., assistant professor of radiation oncology, participated in a roundtable discussion, "Preventing and Surviving Breast Cancer," presented by Mercy Philadelphia Hospital September 1, as part of the hospital's "Dine with the Docs" community education series.



Dr. Sudak

Donna M. Sudak, M.D., professor of psychiatry and director of psychotherapy training, presented a plenary lecture, "Training Competent CBT Therapists — What Works?" at the 4th Asian Cognitive Behavior Therapy Conference: Building a Bridge of Collaboration in CBT, held

August 23-24 in Tokyo. She also gave a symposium presentation, "Cross Cultural Perspectives on the Development and Application of Cognitive Behavior Therapy in Asia," and taught a workshop, "Making the Most of CBT in Challenging Patients: Using Exposure and Behavioral Activation to Enhance Treatment Progress." Prior to the conference, Sudak conducted a one-day workshop on supervision in CBT for the national CBT training project in Japan.

In addition, Sudak presented "Behavioral Activation — More Than Just Do It" in grand rounds at New York University School of Medicine and University of North Texas Health Science Center, on October 3 and 25, respectively. She also presented at a workshop, "How Do We Know When We've Arrived? Methods of Measuring the New ACGME Milestones," at the Association for Academic Psychiatry annual meeting, held October 16-19 in Charleston, S.C.



Dr. Clark



Dr. Waterhouse

Rachel L. Navarra, doctoral student in pharmacology and physiology; **Brian D. Clark, Ph.D.**, research assistant professor; **Gerard Zitnik III**, doctoral student in neuroscience; and

Barry Waterhouse, Ph.D., professor of neurobiology and anatomy, and vice dean for biomedical graduate and postdoctoral studies, published "Methylphenidate and Atomoxetine Enhance Sensory-Evoked Neuronal Activity in the Visual Thalamus of Male Rat" in *Experimental and Clinical Psychopharmacology, Special Issue: Psychopharmacology of Attention*, October 2013. The authors all work in the Waterhouse lab.



Dr. Weingarten



Dr. Schindler

Michael S. Weingarten, M.D., MBA, professor of surgery and chief, Division of Vascular Surgery; **Barbara Schindler, M.D.**, professor of psychiatry and pediatrics, vice dean for



Dr. Landau

educational and academic affairs, and the William Maul Measey Chair in medical education; former medical student **Edward Siegel, M.D. '12**; and **Burton J. Landau, Ph.D.**, emeritus professor of microbiology and immunology, and former associate dean for medical education (retired),

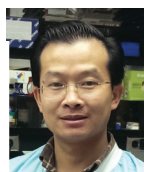
published "Determination of the Success of the Integration of a Business of Healthcare Module into the Medical School Curriculum," in *Medical Science Educator*, Vol. 23, No. 3S.



Mr. Woloski

Jason R. Woloski, a fourth-year medical student who will be pursuing a residency in family medicine, is the author of three policy resolutions that were adopted by the Student Congress of the American Academy of Family Physicians during the AAFP national meeting in August:

"Screening and Reporting of Elder Abuse and Neglect," "Traveler Thrombosis Prevention Airline Safety Measures," and "Utilization of Therapy Animals." The resolutions will now be considered by the appropriate committees within the parent organization for possible adoption as official AAFP policy.



Dr. Yuan



Dr. Baas

Xiaobing Yuan, Ph.D., research assistant professor in the Department of Neurobiology & Anatomy, was awarded a Craig H. Neilsen Foundation Pilot Research Grant in the

amount of \$300,000 for "Guidance of Axon Regeneration by Directing GRP Migration." Before coming to the College of Medicine, Yuan served as a principal investigator at the Institute of Neuroscience, Chinese Academy of Sciences, where he had earned his doctorate. He is a senior scientist in the laboratory of **Peter Baas, Ph.D.**, professor of neurobiology and anatomy and director of the graduate program in neuroscience.

Together, Yuan and Baas have received a one-year Simons Foundation Explorer Award in the amount of \$60,000 for "Misregulation of Microtubule Dynamics in Autism."

We want to hear what you're doing.

Share your accomplishments with your colleagues. Faculty, staff, residents, and students are invited to send their professional news to pulse@drexelmed.edu. Alumni may also send news directly to *Pulse*, or to medical.alumni@drexel.edu. We reserve the right to edit for length and style. Thank you.

Hitting the Right Note: Avir Mitra

Avir Mitra, class of 2015, just may be the only Drexel medical student to have appeared on *Late Night with Conan O'Brien*. On the surface, Mitra seems to have a typical med student resume — a science background, interest in research, physician parents — yet his journey has been anything but conventional. By his own account, his path to the College of Medicine has been “a long and twisted road,” albeit one with a very successful detour as a professional musician. The talents and skills Mitra honed as a musician have proven invaluable as he begins his career in medicine.

After graduating from Brown University in 2003, Mitra moved to Brooklyn and spent the next years working for a radio program, conducting scientific research and, in 2006, applying to medical school. He was also the lead singer and guitarist for the band Bamboo Shoots.

Around the time Mitra was accepted into medical school, Bamboo Shoots was selected from 1,600 unsigned bands to win “Best Music on Campus, Artist of the Year.” Prizes in the contest, sponsored by MTV and Epic Records, included an appearance on *Conan*, a record deal, and a world tour. Thus began Mitra’s “roller coaster of craziness.” Tellingly, the *Conan* performance coincided with the deadline for his medical school deposit.

Mitra had to choose between music and medicine.

“It was probably the hardest decision I’ve ever had to make,” he confesses. “I couldn’t sleep and I was really struggling.” Mitra continues, “When you do music full time, it requires every moment of your life. It’s the same with medicine. Neither of those careers or passions is willing to be second place.” Ultimately, Mitra decided the MTV award presented a rare and extraordinary opportunity to pursue music. “Medical school will be there,” he reasoned. “It’s a pain to get [accepted], but it’s do-able, versus music. This is a once-in-a-lifetime thing.”

Mitra and Bamboo Shoots cut an album and went on tour for the next few years.

A funny thing happened while Bamboo Shoots was traveling the world. Mitra began to miss school. When he was in college, Mitra says, he felt the urge “to be free”; ironically, being on tour made him miss his intellectual side. In 2010, he submitted a revised medical school application on Halloween, one hour before the deadline.

Now in his third year at the College of Medicine, Mitra credits his musical career with profoundly influencing both his medical career and his personality.

On one level, he says, performing forced him to become more outgoing and engaged. Mitra was shy and “easily

intimidated” as a child, but sharing his music meant he literally had to take center stage. “The one thing about being a musician is you’re constantly put in front of people and constantly forced to interact with people. You have to get over being insecure or nervous.”

Mitra also attributes “learning how to work within a system or bureaucracy” to his time with the Epic Records label. Bamboo Shoots was a little band at a big company.

Mitra had to learn how to get the attention of and interact with “the people in control,” to discern the best way to negotiate and get things done. “It was really a learning experience about how to run a business and organize people.”

Mitra decided to run for class president his first year of medical school. “That’s something I *never* in my life would have done [before music],” he says. He won and is now serving his third term.

Initially, Mitra was nervous about his transition back to school. “I was scared out of my mind,” he says. “As a musician, I would rarely wake up before noon. It was a totally different lifestyle.” Falling asleep in class was a legitimate — but unfounded — fear. “It’s not as bad as I thought it would be ... I haven’t pulled an all-nighter once,” he laughs. Medical school has taken a lot of hard work and dedication, Mitra says, but he views it as “a privilege. I get to spend my day learning something — it’s kind of amazing.”

For his next act, Mitra has moved to Sacramento for clinical rotations with Kaiser Permanente (see page 2). Once he has completed those rotations, he’ll decide on which area of medicine to focus.

Ultimately, Mitra is drawn to the idea of making science and medicine accessible to “regular people.” He recalls being instantly captivated by *Radiolab*, a program on NPR highlighting science and music — a “scientific *This American Life*,” he explains. The presentation was “not dumbed down,” but instead was highly engaging. Mitra emailed *Radiolab*’s office and was employed within the week.

“A lot of times, scientists and doctors use so much jargon, it’s boring for people to listen to,” he says. “[I’d like to give] people a pathway into thinking about these types of things.”

Even though Mitra’s road to the College of Medicine was a winding one, the music was not so much a detour as a parallel track. He says that as he tried to reconcile these “left brain and right brain” aspects of himself — the artist and the scientist — he often questioned whether he was doing something completely wrong. Now, however, he can say, “Going off the beaten path helps in ways you don’t anticipate.”



Going off the beaten path helped Avir Mitra in ways he didn’t anticipate.

'40s

Martin B. Kassell, M.D., HU '43 who also completed a residency in internal medicine at Hahnemann, received the "Excellence in Teaching Award" of the Arizona Psychiatric Society "for his outstanding contributions to psychiatric education, his inspiration as a mentor and role model, and his continuing dedication to the public sector, that have ennobled the profession of psychiatry." He practiced general medicine for 23 years before beginning his psychiatric residency at the age of 48. Since retiring, he hosts a monthly discussion group at his home where psychiatrists, including retired, still practicing, new practitioners, and residents, come together to share experiences and talk about cases and problems in practice.

'70s

Bruce Allen Levy, M.D., HU '71, J.D. was among the leaders in the ambulatory surgery center industry selected by *Becker's Spine Review*. Levy is CEO of Austin (Texas) Gastroenterology and serves on the Texas Ambulatory Surgery Center Society board of directors. He is a board-certified anesthesiologist.

Mariell Jessup, M.D., HU '76 professor of medicine, associate chief of clinical affairs in the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine, and medical director of the Penn Medicine Heart and Vascular Center in Philadelphia, has been named president of the American Heart Association.

Stephen K. Klasko, M.D., HU '78 was named president of Thomas Jefferson University and president and CEO of

Thomas Jefferson University Hospital System in Philadelphia. Klasko had been the dean of the Morsani College of Medicine at the University of South Florida and CEO of USF Health since 2004. Prior to joining USF, Klasko served in a series of leadership positions at Drexel University College of Medicine from 2000 to 2004, including vice dean and interim dean, professor of obstetrics and gynecology, and CEO of Drexel University Physicians.

Shirley Press, M.D., HU '78 who won the Florida lottery for \$56 million in 2011, has written a book, *Pressing My Luck: A Doctor's Lottery Journey* (Re-Spin Publishing, 2013). In the book, she describes the journey of her life from growing up a poor girl in Camden, N.J., the daughter of Holocaust survivors, to becoming a doctor and a lottery winner who continues to work in the pediatric emergency department.

Thomas J. Zaydon Jr., M.D., HU '78 was invited to speak on facial lacerations in the Breakout on Medical Issues session at the 68th annual Workers' Compensation Educational Conference and the 25th annual Safety & Health Conference held August 18-21 in Orlando, Fla. He practices at the Cosmetic Surgery Institute of Miami. His father and brother are also alumni: **Thomas J. Zaydon Sr., M.D., HU '44**, and **Samuel Zaydon, M.D., HU '82**.

John A. Handal, M.D., MCP '79 chairman and director of the spine program in the Department of Orthopedic Surgery at Albert Einstein Medical Center, was named to *Becker's Spine Review's* list of featured spine surgeons.

Donald Wilfong Jr., M.D., HU '79 vice chairman of the Department of Medicine at The Western Pennsylvania Hospital in Cheswick, Pa., was named "Father of the Year" by the American Diabetes Association's Pittsburgh branch. The award recognizes his professional accomplishments,

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as well as his success as a father. Wilfong has lectured on diabetic education for more than 25 years and is known for his expertise in the pharmacological effects of diabetic medications.

'80s

Genevieve Wroblewski, M.D., MCP '80; Internal Medicine Resident, MCP '83 joined Hospice of the Piedmont in High Point, N.C., as medical director. Wroblewski previously served as medical director at the Hospice and Palliative Care Center of Winston-Salem, N.C., and as an attending physician in the Pain and Palliative Care Service at the National Institutes of Health Clinical Center in Bethesda, Md.

Norman Hetzler Jr., M.D., HU '82 a colonel in the U.S. Army Reserves, joined St. Mary's Medical Center in Huntington, W.Va., as a cardiovascular and thoracic surgeon. Hetzler is board certified by the American Board of Thoracic Surgeons and the American Board of Surgery. He previously was the medical director of the Heart Center and chief of cardiothoracic and vascular surgery at DuBois Regional Medical Center in DuBois, Pa. Hetzler currently serves as a deputy commander for clinical services and a reserve consultant to the surgeon general for cardiothoracic surgery for the 3274th U.S. Army Hospital, Fort Bragg, N.C.

Jeffrey Michaelis, M.D., HU '83 an internist, joined the medical staff of Putnam Hospital Center in Carmel, N.Y. He is affiliated with Western Connecticut Medical Group in Brewster, N.Y.

Prema Arasu, Ph.D., HU '85, DVM, MBA was named CEO and vice provost of Kansas State University Olathe. Most recently, Arasu served as vice provost of international programs at Washington State University.

Howard Natter, M.D., HU '86 a board-certified neurologist, was appointed medical director of the St. Mary Primary Stroke Center in Langhorne, Pa. The stroke program is part of the St. Mary Neurosciences Center. Natter is also affiliated with Meadowbrook Neurology Group in Meadowbrook, Pa.

Cynthia R. Tolbert, M.D., MCP '86 joined Core Physicians Family Practice in Hampton, N.H. Tolbert, a family care physician who primarily focuses on preventive health, is board certified in family practice.

Richard Berkowitz, M.D., HU '88 medical director of joint replacements at the Coral Springs Medical Center near Fort Lauderdale, Fla., was a guest speaker at AcelRx Pharmaceuticals, Inc.'s Investor Day in June. Berkowitz spoke about his career in orthopedic surgery and his approach to treating elderly patients.

'90s

Stephen Kaminski, M.D., HU '92 director of trauma services and the Surgical Intensive Care Unit at Cottage Hospital in Santa Barbara, Calif., joined the board

of directors at Jodi House Brain Injury Support Center. Kaminski was named Physician of the Year for 2012 for Cottage Hospital.

Paul Smith, M.D., HU '92 an infectious disease specialist in private practice in New York City, was selected for listing in *The Leading Physicians of the World*. Smith is an associate professor at the Weill Cornell Medical College.

Daniel Brown, M.D., HU '93 has been named chief of interventional oncology, a new division within the Department of Radiology and Radiological Sciences at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, Tenn. Brown was previously the chief of interventional radiology and a professor of radiology at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital.

Daniel Gottschall, M.D., HU '93 a board-certified obstetrician and gynecologist, has been elected chairman of the board of directors of St. Vincent's Health Services, the first time a doctor has held that post. He is vice chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at St. Vincent's Medical Center and medical director of the Seton Center for Women's Health. He is in private practice with Alliance for Women's Health in Bridgeport, Conn., a division of Women's Health Connecticut.

Regina Hampton, M.D., MCP '98 has been named medical director of the Comprehensive Breast Care Center at Doctors Community Hospital in Lanham, Md. It is the first and only breast center in Prince George's County. She is

In Memoriam

Maurice W. Black, M.D., HU '53 May 21
Dorothy L. Carlson, M.D., WMC '53 April 18
Jean DeVine, M.D., HU '50 August 7
Theodore W. Eastland, Jr., M.D., HU '63 July 14
Regina M. Fitti, M.D., HU '49 August 25
James A. Greco, M.D., HU '65 July 28
Carl A. Hokholt, M.D., HU '43 July 24
Mary Jo Jacobs, M.D., WMC '55 September 1
G. Gary Kirchner, M.D., HU '59 August 2
Daniel W. Kirkpatrick, M.D., HU '43 March 14
Cornelius A. Last, Jr., M.D., HU '47 September 26
Sandra W. McGruder, M.D., MCP '77 August 4
George C. Mosch, M.D., HU '46 August 19
Lillian May Rosenberg, M.D., WMC '43 March 1
Gabriel K. Rubin, M.D., HU '50 January 24
Lester Sablosky, M.D., HU '50 August 1
David J. Schnall, M.D., HU '50 October
Donna P. Scott, M.D., MCP '90 September 12
Michael J. Sivulich, M.D., HU '46 August 5
Sewell K. Starcke, M.D., HU '42 July 9
LeRoy Monroe Steinbrecher, M.D., HU '62 August 11
Kenneth W. Thomulka, M.S., HU '67, Ph.D., HU '70
September 28
Barbara A. Torpie, M.D., HU '66 April 21
Lillian P. Warnick, M.D., WMC '47 October 2
Ruth Wong, M.D., WMC '47 September 21

also the project director for a \$1 million grant from Susan G. Komen that will help uninsured and underinsured women receive mammograms.

Tiffany Sanders, M.D., MCPHU '99 was a winner in the "40 Under Forty" Achievement Awards presented by *The Network Journal*, a news magazine for black professionals and business owners, in June. Sanders is the medical director of Malta House of Care Inc., which provides primary care services for uninsured patients in the Hartford, Conn., area.

'00s

Gregory Poulter, M.D. '02 was featured among leaders in the ambulatory surgery center industry by *Becker's Spine Review*. Poulter is a spine surgeon at Vail Summit Orthopaedics in Vail, Colo.

Philip Neubauer, M.D. '03 has joined the Orthopedics & Joint Replacement Division at Mercy Medical Center in Baltimore, Md. Neubauer is board certified as an orthopedic surgeon and as a pharmacist. Previously, he was an assistant professor in the Department of Orthopedic Surgery at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

Adam S. Rosenstock, M.D. '06 a board-certified surgeon, joined Stephen G. Pereira, M.D., and Associates, a laparoscopic- and robotic-surgery-focused practice located in Hackensack, N.J.

Joel A. Horning, M.D. '07 joined Orthopedic Associates of Lancaster in Lancaster, Pa. Most recently, Horning completed a fellowship in orthopedic sports medicine from the University of Texas Health Science Center. Horning holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Drexel's College of Engineering.

2013 Delaware Top Docs

These alumni were listed as 2013 Top Doctors in the October issue of *Delaware Today*.

Mark John Corso, M.D., MCP '97
Stephanie Gilbert, M.D., MCPHU '00
Matthew Patrick Gotthold, M.D., HU '91
William M. Kaplan, M.D., HU '74
John E. Lahaniatis, M.D., HU '95
Gabriel E. Lewullis, M.D. '05
Paul Melnick, M.D., MCP '84
David A. Paul, M.D., HU '88
James J. Rubano, M.D., HU '98
Deborah Jane Tuttle, M.D., MCP '82

Brian Horst, M.D. '07 a cardiologist, joined Essentia Health Heart & Vascular in Duluth, Minn. He completed a residency in internal medicine at the Mayo Graduate School of Medicine in Rochester, Minn., and a fellowship in cardiovascular disease at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. Horst is certified by the American Board of Medical Specialties in internal medicine.

Martin J. Morrison III, M.D. '07, Drexel/Hahnemann Orthopedic Surgery Residency '12 has completed his fellowship in pediatric orthopedics at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and is now an assistant professor in the Department of Orthopedic Surgery at Loma Linda University, Loma Linda, Calif. His wife, Bronwyn Carlson, M.D., was a clinical instructor of pediatrics for the College of Medicine and a hospitalist at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children before also joining Loma Linda, as an assistant professor in the Department of Pediatrics.

Dafna Ahdoot, M.D. '08 has joined the Tarzana Pediatric Medical Group in Tarzana, Calif., as the sole general pediatrician in the practice.

Faisal Chaudhry, M.D. '08 joined the active medical staff at Pottstown Memorial Medical Center, Pottstown, Pa., in the Department of Pain Management. Chaudhry is board certified by the American Board of Anesthesiology. He is also affiliated with Tri-County Comprehensive Pain Management in Pottstown and Berks Family Care in Douglassville, Pa.

Kelly M. Wanamaker, M.D. '08 will begin a fellowship in cardiothoracic surgery at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, a teaching affiliate of Harvard Medical School, in July 2014. She is in her final year of general surgery residency at Allegheny General Hospital in Pittsburgh, Pa.

Andrew Geisler, M.D. '09 has joined the Elko Spine and Rehabilitation Clinic in Elko, Nev. He completed his internship and residency at Albany Medical Center, Albany, N.Y., where he served as chief resident in the Department of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation.

Julia Krout, MLAS '09 has been promoted to manager at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center and Weill Cornell Medical College in New York City. She manages the gnotobiotics program, oversees all incoming and transfers of research animals, and coordinates equipment storage, maintenance, and transportation for the four research animal facilities and two satellite facilities. She was recently appointed secretary for the Metro NY American Association for Laboratory Animal Science and attended the Leadership Academy at the national AALAS conference in Baltimore, Md., in October.

Georgia E. Ragonetti-Zebell, M.D. '09 an obstetrician/gynecologist, joined MountainView Obstetrics and Gynecology in Easley, S.C., part of the Baptist Easley family of Physician Practices.

Former Interns, Residents, and Fellows

(in alphabetical order)

Nnamdi Azie, M.D., Drexel/Hahnemann Interventional Cardiology Resident '07 a cardiothoracic and vascular surgeon, has joined the staff of Beebe Medical in Lewes, Del. Azie is board certified in cardiothoracic surgery, vascular surgery, and general surgery. He relocated to Delaware from Ohio, where he was an attending cardiothoracic and vascular surgeon at Miami Valley Hospital in Dayton, Upper Valley Medical Center in Troy, Good Samaritan Hospital in Dayton, and Kettering Medical Center in Kettering.

Sri Smitha Kanaparthi, M.D., Drexel/Hahnemann Anesthesiology Resident '12 a board-certified pediatric anesthesiologist, joined OU [Oklahoma University] Children's Physicians. Kanaparthi completed a pediatric anesthesiology fellowship at the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine.

Mikhail Kirnus, M.D., Interventional Cardiology Fellow '11 a cardiologist with Altru Health System in Grand Forks and Devil's Lake, N.D., has also started to provide monthly visits to the North Valley Health Center, an Altru affiliate in Warren, Minn. Kirnus is board certified in internal medicine, cardiovascular disease, and interventional cardiology. He is also a fellow of the American College of Cardiology.

Charles Lisa, M.D., Internal Medicine Resident, HU '70; Cardiology Fellow, HU '74 who retired in 2012 as a cardiologist at Our Lady of Lourdes Medical Center, was one of two recipients of the Lourdes Health Foundation's 2013 Healing Spirit Awards, which honors a Lourdes physician for his or her compassion, dedication to patients, and years of service. Lisa serves as a case reviewer for Healthcare Quality Strategies and is a volunteer for Samaritan Hospice and Healthcare Services.

Norbert Urbanski, M.D., Drexel/Hahnemann Interventional Cardiology Resident '07 a board-certified cardiologist, has joined Owensboro Health Cardiology in Owensboro, Ky. Urbanski previously practiced in Alexandria, La. He is a fellow of the American College of Cardiology.

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In Memoriam

James A. Greco, M.D., HU '65 who also completed his internship and residency in internal medicine at Hahnemann, passed away on July 28. He was a major in the U.S. Army Medical Corps from 1967 to 1969, serving a one-year tour of duty in Vietnam. He was a National Institutes of Health fellow in the Division of Nephrology & Vascular Disease from 1970 to 1972. An attending physician at Monmouth Medical Center, he was a clinical associate professor of medicine (Division of Nephrology) at Hahnemann and later Drexel University College of Medicine from 1972 until 2007. Most recently he lived in Saint Marys, Ga. He is survived by his wife of 46 years, Karen, and his daughter, son-in-law, and grandson.

Walter P. Lomax Jr., M.D., HU '57 passed away October 10 in Philadelphia at the age of 81. His practice began in a rowhouse in his neighborhood in 1958 and eventually included six offices and 22 physicians. He was chairman of the Lomax Companies, comprising Lomax Real Estate Partners, two technology firms, and WURD Radio. In addition to many other philanthropic activities, in tribute to his parents he created the Elizabeth and Walter P. Lomax Sr. Endowed Scholarship, which benefits medical students at Drexel University College of Medicine. He received the Drexel Alumni Association's 2007 Outstanding Entrepreneur Award and was named to the Drexel 100. His survivors include his wife, Beverly, six children, and 14 grandchildren.



Dr. Lomax listens to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s heart at Hahnemann Hospital in 1968.

Sandra W. McGruder-Jackson, M.D., MCP '77 passed away on August 4 at the age of 66. In addition to her private practice, Wholistic Health Care, she had served as medical director at a community health center, where she was involved in planning and implementing the first school-based health services in the city of Philadelphia, and medical director of the Philadelphia Health Care for the Homeless Project. She was a member of the board of trustees of the National Medical Association and president of Keystone State Medical Society, the Pennsylvania affiliate of the NMA, as well as chair of NMA Region II. She is survived by her husband, Alvin Jackson, four children, and nine grandchildren.

Leonard L. Ross, Ph.D. who served as provost of Hahnemann University, dean of the Hahnemann University School of Medicine, and ultimately dean of the combined MCP-Hahnemann School of Medicine before his retirement in the late 1990s, died May 10 of a heart condition. He was 85 and lived in West Chester. He joined the medical school in 1973 as professor and chairman of the Department of Anatomy at the Medical College of Pennsylvania. When he was dean of Hahnemann, he was the only non-physician in the country to hold that title at a medical school. He is survived by his wife, Frances, three daughters, and a grandson.



The College of Medicine Grand Classes

We are paying special tribute to alumni who have graduated from the Woman's Medical College and Hahnemann classes of 1959 and earlier on Friday, May 16, 2014. These "Grand Classes" will join the Classes of 1964, as they celebrate their 50-year reunion and receive their Golden Dragon pins. This special luncheon celebration will take place following the College of Medicine Commencement at the Union League, 240 South Broad Street, Philadelphia. Mark your calendars and look for a very special invitation in February.

THE EVENTS @ Alumni Weekend

There's so much to do! **May 2 & 3, 2014**

Back to the Future

Recent Graduate Reception

CME Programs

Silver Dragon Reception



The Events @ Alumni Weekend offer exciting new venues, creative interactive programs, and new opportunities to see old classmates!

- "Back to the Future of Medical Education" (Alumni or prospective students experience Med School)
- Class Welcome in Dinosaur Hall
- New CME Programming
- Archives and Simulation Center Tours
- Silver Dragon 25-Year Reception
- Awards Luncheon with the Dean
- University Dinner & Dance Party