



## New Drexel Neurosciences Institute Will Advance Research, Education and Patient Care

Drexel University College of Medicine has launched the Drexel Neurosciences Institute, an innovative collaboration of the College and Global Neurosciences Institute, LLC. The Drexel Neurosciences Institute, led by prominent neurosurgeon Erol Veznedaroglu, MD, is the first of its kind in the country to establish a truly integrated approach to neuroscience-related clinical care, education and interdisciplinary research.

"This model is unique because Drexel University serves as the core that brings all the essential elements together under one umbrella: neurology, neurosurgery, pain management, biomedical science, biomedical engineering and pharmacy," says Veznedaroglu, the College of Medicine's newly appointed Robert A. Groff Chair in Neurosurgery. "This university model creates a formidable think tank, putting all these great minds together to enhance clinical care, education and research.

"We have affiliated hospitals in a very tight geography in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and the metropolitan Philadelphia area," continues "Dr. Vez," as he is known. "If a patient has Parkinson's disease and needs functional neurosurgery to reverse a tremor, we have a hospital that provides that. If a patient has a brain tumor, ruptured aneurysm or stroke, Hahnemann has a brand-new unit to expertly handle those conditions. And we have one of the biggest neuroscience centers in the country at Capital Health."

Dr. Vez notes that the institute's specialists will work together in the same physical location, "which compels people to have a collision of ideas every day." During office hours they will see patients together. A patient who has brain cancer, for example, will be seen by the neurosurgeon, oncologist, radiation oncologist and possibly a nutritionist

all at once so they have the ability to discuss the case. "Bringing together one comprehensive center where patients are seen by a collaborative team is the future of sophisticated neuroscience care," says Dr. Vez.

"We have a synergistic model where everyone benefits," he emphasizes. "We are streamlined so residents, graduate students, doctors and, most importantly, the patients have access to world-class care."



Neurosurgeon Erol Veznedaroglu, MD

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Physician Ted Corbin on embracing our differences



The Match Day envelopes held lots of good news



Audience applauds the Pediatric AIDS Benefit Concert

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# pulse

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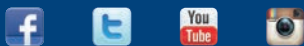
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# Dean's Message

March was an exciting month. The events of Match Day have their own drama: the giving of envelopes, the raffle drawing, the toast and, finally, the Oscar moment. Happily, I can say we were pleased with the outcome. The Match is becoming an increasingly competitive scenario as the number of positions is not keeping pace with the supply of applicants. This year, there were 28 percent more applicants than there were first-year slots. These are not all U.S. graduates. Of the 34,905 active applicants, 18,025 were U.S. seniors at allopathic schools.



Daniel V. Schidlow, MD

Ultimately, our medical students matched very well. What is emerging as an issue is that all students need to be very aware of where they stand in relationship to their marketability. With increasing frequency, serious academic problems during their medical school careers will become impediments to getting the residency of their choice. Matching with certain subspecialties is becoming more and more competitive. We provide excellent advice and support to our students, and we hope they will avail themselves of such support and be open to the advice of the deans and chairs and others who might direct them in the correct path.

Alumni also can be of great help. The Office of Alumni Relations will launch an alumni network this fall.

Students and alumni will be able to self-select opportunities for engagement online and in person for mentoring, shadowing, career guidance, post-graduate relocation and more.

Also in March, we launched a new institute. The Drexel Neurosciences Institute presents a unique opportunity for us to leverage our already strong basic neuroscience research with a growing clinical enterprise that will enhance the quality and quantity of services — both neurologic and neurosurgical — to individuals with diseases of the central nervous system. We felt that it was extremely important to combine everything under one umbrella organization because it really is a continuum. If people need surgery, they need pre-surgical evaluation and post-surgical care by non-surgical specialists. On the other hand, many times neurologists detect lesions that are amenable to surgery. The best possible care occurs when everyone is working together as a team, and that team, moving into the future, is going to be much larger and broader. There are diseases for which, until now, there may have been no good interventional methods, but with the advent of new technologies, there are ways of taking care of them — from delivering specific medications to intracranial lesions, such as tumors or vascular malformations, to surgical treatment of epilepsy and, potentially, Parkinson's. We are very excited to be part of a new approach to providing clinical services, as well as a structure whereby physicians — not only neurologists and neurosurgeons, but others — will be able to interact to provide the best care and promote research.

Daniel V. Schidlow, MD  
Walter H. and Leonore Annenberg Dean  
Senior Vice President of Medical Affairs

## Different and Yet the Same

As a person who represents difference — African-American male physician — I am privileged to contribute to Drexel's eminence through practice, scholarship and education. And I embody many facets: I am a Drexel (MCP) alum. I am a first-generation college graduate and an emergency medicine physician. I have also been fortunate to be engaged in the work of Healing Hurt People (healinghurtpeople.org), a trauma-informed violence intervention program that I co-founded. Because of this range of work, I find myself in a unique position to teach, mentor and advise young physicians and public health practitioners.

What some may not know is that I am also happily married to the man of my dreams. For some, it is enlightening to learn that I am gay (or maybe not). This quality also allows me to share my experience as a gay man, more specifically a gay African-American man. Being a black gay male professional in Philadelphia has been a privilege despite all of the challenges society poses toward African-Americans and gay people. Specifically as a health care provider in emergency medicine, I feel a deep honor to care for people in my community. When I walk into a treatment room and introduce myself to my patients, I often see something in their eyes that signals pride and relief. This makes me want to work that much harder to assure them they will receive the best care they possibly can.

In my role as an educator, I often find young physicians and students — both medical school and public health school students — coming to me for support, with concerns or questions about how to be successful in their journey. Again, I feel honored and privileged to be able to offer them suggestions and direction. On first glance, it is easy to identify me as African-American; however, it might take a bit more time to learn that I am gay. Nonetheless, I am proud of who I am and how I embrace life. This acknowledgment of being gay offers another layer of diversity to an experience of life that others may not have had, but knowing about it should shed some light for those who are unaware.

As a researcher I have studied the lives of boys and men of color who live in the inner city and are plagued by trauma, adversity and violence. My work has been to understand how trauma, adversity and violence offer solutions to help young people of color heal. This is no small feat, but it is my

goal. I see the complexity in the lives of the young people that we care for, and see the parallel of accepting and understanding that very complexity in my professional work. This makes me a better clinician, colleague and person.

I often hear people say that color no longer matters; however, I believe it does. People say they do not see color, which invalidates the unique perspective and experiences that make us special and that, if truly embraced and unleashed, would enable people of color to truly contribute to their greatest potential and to the collective good.

Society has evolved in its understanding of same-sex relationships, with a majority seeing them on par with heterosexual relationships. But this recognition does not conclude our work. This acknowledges that there is more to do. A friend that I admire said to me that when he told his father, who happens to be a physician, that he was gay, his father responded by saying, "I love you just the same." My friend continued, "I knew that my father, as a physician, would be embracing and understanding, as all physicians should be."

Here at Drexel University College of Medicine, we are attempting to embrace the differences that everyone brings, and it makes for such a rich opportunity to learn and experience the beauty of differences. This allows for cultivation of true eminence in scholarship, practice and education. I am different and yet the same.

— Theodore J. Corbin, MD, MCP '97  
Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine  
Assistant Professor, School of Public Health  
Co-Director, Center for Nonviolence & Social Justice



Alumnus and faculty physician Ted Corbin finds himself in a unique position to teach and mentor students and young practitioners.



# Neurosciences Institute

• continued from the cover

Dr. Vez is chair of Global Neurosciences Institute, a consortium of some of the nation's most experienced neurosurgeons specializing in comprehensive care, including vascular, tumor, spine and functional neurosurgery. He is also the founder of the Capital Institute for Neurosciences at Capital Health. He previously served as director of the Division of Cerebrovascular and Endovascular Neurosurgery at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital.

The Drexel Neurosciences Institute will harness the expertise of Drexel Medicine neurologists and researchers, who provide outstanding care and innovation in areas such as Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, ALS, and chronic pain, combined with the clinical expertise of Global Neurosciences Institute neurosurgeons, who are among an elite group of dual-trained vascular neurosurgeons able to perform conventional neurosurgery as well as minimally invasive endovascular neurosurgery. The institute will also offer patients access to participation in important neuroscience clinical trials.

"In addition to providing advanced neuroscience care for patients, the Drexel Neurosciences Institute seeks to advance the understanding of neurological function, disorders and treatment through interdisciplinary research," says Daniel V. Schidlow, MD, Annenberg Dean and senior vice president of medical affairs at the College of Medicine. "It will also enrich our medical and biomedical education programs."

The institute is working closely with the graduate program in neuroscience to help set up unique locations where PhD students can get clinical experience related to their research during their training. "PhD students should be seeing the patients if they're going to spend their lives trying to find cures for neurological diseases and conditions," Dr. Vez says. "Everyone benefits — the hospitals, patients, students and residents, as well as our research efforts."

The Drexel Neurosciences Institute is one of the only places in the country that has a protocol approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to deliver chemotherapy directly to a brain tumor through a catheterized artery in the leg. "We can now localize the brain tumor, find the blood supply and then douse the brain tumor with chemotherapeutic agents," explains Dr. Vez. "That opens the door to many other treatments for chronic pain, ALS and acute stroke. We're working with Drexel colleagues now to find the right drug to deliver to the brain to help brain cells recover as the patient is going through the acute stroke process. Currently, when a stroke patient comes in we find the blockage, open it and hope that the brain cells heal. What we're planning to do is deliver neuroprotective agents to the brain after opening the blockage. This would be a very novel treatment."

Dr. Vez notes that Itzhak Fischer, PhD, professor and chair, and John Houle, PhD, professor, Department of Neurobiology & Anatomy at the College of Medicine, have been doing world-class research in spinal cord injury, which the institute plans to accelerate. "We hope to be the first in the country to take the world-class research being done right here in spinal cord injury directly to human treatment in patients who have had complete loss of movement after an acute spinal cord injury. We're working to set up a clinical trial. Again, it's a perfect marriage because the researchers have the models, but they don't have the patients. We have the patients, and now with this university model, we can put everything together to advance this important research. I'm confident that all the boats are going to rise in this endeavor."







# Match Day 2015

On Match Day, March 20, at the Queen Lane Campus, fourth-year students simultaneously opened sealed envelopes to learn where they had matched for their residency training. The traditional event — celebrated on the same day at medical schools across the country — began with congratulatory remarks from Valerie Weber, MD, vice dean for educational affairs, and a champagne toast delivered by Dean Daniel V. Schidlow, MD.

At Drexel, the top five specialty choices were internal medicine (55), pediatrics (29), anesthesiology (26), family medicine (23) and emergency medicine (19).





## MLK: A Day On, Not a Day Off

College of Medicine faculty, staff and students participated in a number of service events throughout the city on January 19 in recognition of Martin Luther King Day. Over a dozen students were at Thomas Mifflin Elementary School in East Falls, where they painted classrooms. Some students participated in the MLK DARE Coalition for Action, Resistance and Empowerment Walk in Center City, distributing information, helping to organize marchers and then marching themselves. Another group of students working within the community participated in street and vacant lot cleaning with more than 40 volunteers. The following day, a student-organized group attended a showing of *Selma* in Center City. All the participants in the MLK Day of service received the first Drexel College of Medicine “MLK Day of Service” lapel pin. Of course, many people joined in service projects with friends and family in their own neighborhoods.

**At the DARE Walk are (l-r) Sarah Monaco, MS '15, Neuroscience; Brielle Ferguson, doctoral student, Neuroscience; Emily Ortega, second-year medical student; and Suguna Chaganti, Shakira Burton, Bisola Egbe and Angely Mondestin, all first-year medical students.**



## Save the Date: Fifth National Forum on Women's Issues in Gastroenterology and Hepatology

Women's issues in gastroenterology and hepatology will be the focus of a national forum hosted by the College's Division of Gastroenterology & Hepatology, October 10–11, at the Sonesta Hotel Philadelphia. Asyia Ahmad, MD, MPH, the division chief and an associate professor of medicine, is the program director of the conference, the fifth such forum the division has hosted. Barbara Frank,

MD, MACG, FASGE, professor of medicine, also in the division, is the co-director.

Nationally recognized faculty from around the United States will speak on gender-related issues in gastroenterology, including IBD, endoscopy, liver disease, motility disorders, nutrition and obesity.

See the full brochure, including agenda, poster information, CME accreditation and registration, online by visiting [webcampus.drexelmed.edu/CME/Registration/womens\\_gihepatology2015.aspx](http://webcampus.drexelmed.edu/CME/Registration/womens_gihepatology2015.aspx).

For additional information, please call the Department of Medicine at 215.762.2514.

## 'Doctor or Doctress?' Wins ABC-CLIO Online History Award

The Legacy Center at the College of Medicine has been awarded the American Library Association's ABC-CLIO Online History Award for the project *Doctor or Doctress? Exploring American history through the eyes of women physicians* ([doctordoctress.org](http://doctordoctress.org)). The biannual award recognizes the accomplishments of a person or a group of people producing a freely available online historical collection, an online tool tailored for the purpose of finding historical materials, or an online teaching aid stimulating creative historical scholarship.

“Award committee members were especially impressed by exemplary integration of primary sources on an essential subject across multiple curricular levels, and the flexible and robust applications for curricula,” the committee chair noted.

The project, headed by Joanne Murray, director and historian, included Margaret Graham, managing archivist, and Matt Herbison, archivist, all of the Legacy Center. The Drexel Libraries development team worked with the archivists to build the site.



The Legacy Center: Archives and Special Collections  
([drexelmed.edu/archives](http://drexelmed.edu/archives))

## Researchers Win Grants From 'Refunds for Breast Cancer Research' Campaign

The Pennsylvania Breast Cancer Coalition recently awarded two College of Medicine researchers grants from its statewide Refunds for Breast Cancer Research campaign. Alessandro Fatatis, MD, PhD, professor in the Departments of Pharmacology & Physiology and Pathology & Laboratory Medicine, and Mauricio Reginato, PhD, associate professor in the Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, each received a \$50,000 award for their breast cancer research.

The coalition is honoring Reginato for his research in triple negative breast cancer. Fatatis won his grant for his research in cancer development.

More than \$3 million has been donated to the Refunds for Breast Cancer Research campaign, which allows Pennsylvania taxpayers to donate their state tax



**Left to right: Pat Halpin-Murphy, president and founder of the PA Breast Cancer Coalition; Mauricio Reginato, PhD; Alessandro Fatatis, MD, PhD; and Kenny Simansky, PhD, vice dean for research.**

refunds directly to this important work. More than 80 Refunds for Breast Cancer Research grants have been awarded to Pennsylvania scientists looking for the cause of and cure for breast cancer.

## Medical Student Research Day Fields 82 Posters

The College's fourth annual Medical Student Research Day, held on March 12 at Queen Lane, included 82 poster presentations. After the judging by faculty volunteers, Keith Cengel, MD, PhD, associate professor of radiation oncology at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, gave the keynote lecture, "From Biochemist to Clinical



Trialist and Back Again: A Physician Scientist's Journey." His talk was followed by the awards reception, where the winning students each received a first place:

- **Gregory Azzam**, MD/PhD student for his project in the laboratory of Luther Brady, MD, in the Department of Radiation Oncology
- **Erica Baller**, fourth-year medical student working in the laboratory of Karen Berman, MD, from the National Institute of Mental Health
- **Deshka Foster**, fourth-year medical student, who worked with Wilbur Bowne, MD, in the Department of Surgery
- **Samuel Laurencin**, fourth-year medical student for his work in the laboratory of Giuseppe Palmese, PhD, in the Department of Chemical & Biological Engineering, Drexel College of Engineering
- **Daniel Huettner**, second-year medical student for his work with Sandhya Kortagere, PhD, in the Department of Microbiology & Immunology

**Fourth-year medical student Erica Baller receives her first place award from Jane Clifford, PhD, associate dean for medical student research and chair of the Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology.**

## Komen Grant to Department of Surgery

The Department of Surgery recently received a Susan G. Komen Philadelphia® Community Grant for 2015–16, to advance critical and life-saving breast cancer early detection, treatment and support for patients. The grant was awarded to fund the department's Women's Health Project,

which provides free mammograms, diagnostics and treatment to the uninsured. The project's goal this year is to serve 500 uninsured women in the Philadelphia area.

"This grant will help in our goal to reduce health disparities for the uninsured population in this city

and to increase awareness about the importance of early detection of breast cancer. The earlier it is caught, the better, so we need people to get screened," said Samira Islam, MPH, clinical research coordinator of the Women's Health Project, Department of Surgery. This is the 10th continuous year the Women's Health Project has been funded.

## Schizophrenia Research Grants Awarded

Three novel research projects designed to investigate aspects of schizophrenia or its treatment have been awarded funding through the Helen S. Vernik Schizophrenia Pilot Research Project Grant. The goal of the competitive program is to foster research training in the Graduate Medical Education program in psychiatry, through the development of innovative studies led by a faculty investigator with psychiatric residents as part of the team.

The request for proposals drew significant interest across Drexel. The applications were evaluated for scientific merit by a panel of basic and clinical scientists from the College of Medicine and other academic units of the University, and the results of the scientific review were then presented to the Helen S. Vernik Trust Review Committee for their funding recommendations to Psychiatry Chair Mary Anne Delaney, MD.

The winning proposals, investigators and participating residents are as follows:

- *Augmenting Inhibition to Alleviate Cognitive Impairment in Schizophrenia*  
PI: Wen-Jun Gao, PhD, professor, Department of Neurobiology & Anatomy; co-investigator: Brielle Ferguson, PhD student; participating residents: Drs. Lillian Reilly, David Prado and Celia Varghese
- *The Genomics of Treatment-Resistant Psychotic Symptoms*  
PI: Rita Shaughnessy, MD, PhD, associate professor, Department of Psychiatry; co-investigator: Richard Josiassen, PhD, research professor, Department of Psychiatry; participating residents: Sikandar Shah, MD, and two additional residents (TBA)
- *Assessment of Cognition in Schizophrenia Using Optical Brain Imaging*  
PI: Patricia Shewokis, PhD, professor, College of Nursing & Health Professions and School of Biomedical Engineering, Science & Health Systems; co-investigator: Hasan Ayaz, PhD, assistant research professor, School of Biomedical Engineering; participating residents: Drs. Mitali Patnaik, Chuck Stanfa and Joanna Beyer

## Office of Global Health Education Announced

In response to the growing interest in global health among Drexel medical students, and in support of Drexel's mission as a comprehensive and globally engaged urban research university, the College of Medicine has established the Office of Global Health Education. The office works in collaboration with the

University-level Office of International Programs and Study Abroad Office to support global learning opportunities for medical students, explains Vice Dean for Educational Affairs Valerie Weber, MD.

Weber has appointed Neilufar Varjavand, MD, to direct the new office, which has established structured guidelines to facilitate medical students' safe and ethical global health learning. Visit [drexelmed.edu/globalhealth](http://drexelmed.edu/globalhealth) to learn more.

## Health Outreach Project Adds Clinic at The Arc

The College's student-run Health Outreach Project has added a new clinic site, at The Arc of Philadelphia. The Arc protects the rights of, and promotes opportunities for, children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, advocating for their active citizenship, self-determination and full inclusion.



Drexel medical students working at the site provide a weekly walk-in clinic at The Arc day center in North Philadelphia and participate in the organization's HealthMeet screening and prevention program under the direct supervision of a licensed physician. HealthMeet is a CDC-funded initiative through The Arc which consists of a head-to-toe screen that also includes health and wellness questions about nutrition, health care access and other issues.

Through the Health Outreach Project, Drexel medical students have the opportunity to provide primary health services under the direct supervision of a licensed physician. In addition to the newest location at The Arc of Philadelphia, clinics are maintained at the Salvation Army inpatient substance abuse treatment center; Eliza Shirley House, a shelter for homeless mothers and their children; the Streetside Clinic for intravenous drug users; and the Chinatown Clinic, which has been in operation for close to 20 years and serves a large number of Asian and other immigrants and refugees.

**Celebrating the student-run clinic at The Arc are Dean Daniel V. Schidlow, MD, and (l-r) Norma Carter, Esq., board chair, and Tanya Regali, executive director, The Arc of Philadelphia.**





## Pediatric AIDS Benefit Raises Over \$24,500

The annual Pediatric AIDS Benefit Concert raised more than \$24,500 for children with HIV and AIDS. The student-run concert, held February 14, showcased the prodigious performing arts talents of College of Medicine students, faculty and staff. Now in its 22nd year, the event has raised about half a million dollars for the Dorothy Mann Center for Pediatric and Adolescent HIV at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children. The center is

the largest of its kind in the tri-state area, providing comprehensive care, including social services, to children infected with HIV and their families. The money raised by the concert helps pay for the services of a child-life specialist and a dietitian for the program, offers the children the opportunity to attend summer camp, and helps provide the affected families with emergency funds for housing and other expenses.



## WHAT WE'RE DOING



**Dr. Baas**

**Peter W. Baas, PhD**, professor, Department of Neurobiology & Anatomy, gave a platform presentation, "Microtubule-based Therapies for Injury and Disease of the Nervous System: The Kindest Cut," in a mini-symposium at Tel Aviv University titled "Neurodevelopmental, Neuropsychiatric and Neurodegenerative Diseases: The Microtubule Connection" on November 3, 2014. Earlier last fall, Baas gave a platform presentation, "Beyond Taxol: Microtubule-based Strategies for Promoting Nerve Regeneration After Injury," at the Asia Pacific Symposium on Neural Regeneration, held in Nanjing, China, September 6–8, 2014.



**Dr. Barrett**

**James E. Barrett, PhD**, professor and chair, Department of Pharmacology & Physiology, and director of the Clinical & Translational Research Institute, received the 2015 Torald Sollmann Award in Pharmacology from the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics. The award is presented biennially for significant contributions over many years to the advancement and extension of knowledge in the field of pharmacology.



**Dr. Brady**

**Luther W. Brady, MD**, Distinguished University Professor and Hylda Cohn/American Cancer Society Professor of Clinical Oncology, is to be listed on the Wall of Honour at The Royal Society of Medicine, London.



**Dr. Côté**

**Marie-Pascale Côté, PhD**, instructor in the Department of Neurobiology & Anatomy, received a National Institutes of Health research project grant for the study "Chloride Homeostasis and Motor Recovery After SCI." She also received a pilot research grant from the Craig H. Neilsen Foundation, "Exercise Modulates Sensory Processing Through Chloride Homeostasis."



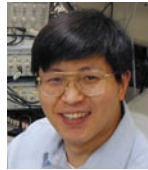
**Dr. Cunningham**

**Timothy Cunningham, PhD**, professor, and **Lihua Yao, MS**, research assistant, Department of Neurobiology & Anatomy, published "Anti-inflammatory Peptide Regulates Supply of Heat Shock Protein 70 Monomers: Implications for Aging and Age-Related Disease" in the latest issue of *Rejuvenation Research*. The paper describes a new potential therapy for age-related disorders of the nervous system.



**Dr. Ehrlich**

**Garth D. Ehrlich, PhD**, professor, Departments of Microbiology & Immunology and Otolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery, organized an international meeting on Lyme disease and other tick-borne infections in cooperation with the International Lyme and Associated Diseases Society, held at Drexel's Center City Campus, April 10–11. In addition, he serves on the Program Committee for the International Society for Otitis Media's biennial meeting to be held in Washington, D.C., June 7–11.



**Dr. Gao**

**Brielle R. Ferguson**, third-year PhD student in the Neuroscience program, and **Wen-Jun Gao, PhD**, professor, Department of Neurobiology & Anatomy, are authors of an invited review, "Development of Thalamocortical Connections Between the Mediodorsal Nucleus of Thalamus and Prefrontal Cortex and Its Implication in Cognition," published in *Frontiers in Human Neuroscience*, 8(1027): 1–10 (published online January 9).



**Ms. Ferrer**

**Christina M. Ferrer**, PhD candidate in the Molecular & Cell Biology & Genetics program, received an American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) Scholar-in-Training award to attend the association's annual meeting in April 2015 to present her research titled "O-GlcNAcylation regulates breast cancer cell invasion via the NAD<sup>+</sup>-dependent deacetylase SIRT1." Ferrer is doing thesis work in the laboratory of Mauricio J. Reginato, PhD.



**Dr. Gupta**

**Anita Gupta, DO, PharmD**, associate professor, Department of Anesthesiology & Perioperative Medicine, and vice chair of the Division of Regional Anesthesiology & Pain Medicine, was a recipient of the Association of American Medical Colleges Learning Health System Research Learner Award. As an awardee, Gupta was invited to attend the Learning Health System Research Award kick-off meeting on February 12 at AAMC headquarters in Washington, D.C., with fees waived for registration and lodging. Gupta published "The Importance of Good Communication in Treating Patients' Pain" in the March 2015 issue of *AMA Journal of Ethics*.



**Dr. Hanlon**

**Catherine A. Hanlon, MD**, associate clinical professor of medicine and emergency medicine, was named a Top Doctor in emergency medicine by *New Jersey Monthly* magazine for the fourth year. She is the medical director of Hyperbaric Medicine practices at Monmouth Medical Center in Long Branch and the former chair of Monmouth's Emergency Department.



## Residents Win Child & Adolescent Psychiatry Academy Travel Grants

Three residents in the Child & Adolescent Psychiatry Residency program received nationally competitive awards from the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry that provided funding for them to attend the academy's 2014 annual meeting. **Dimas Tirado-Morales, MD**, second-year resident, was selected to participate in the Systems of Care Special Program Clinical Projects, a daylong event during the meeting. **Krystine Carter, MD**, a first-year resident, and **Ayesha Silman, MD**, second-year resident, both received awards under the academy's Educational Outreach program. The meeting took place in October in San Diego.



Dr. Hong

**Eugene Hong, MD**, chair, Department of Family, Community & Preventive Medicine, and chief, Division of Sports Medicine, and colleagues at Kean University published "Depression in Athletes: Prevalence and Risk Factors" in the January issue of *Current Sports Medicine Reports*. Hong also served on the faculty for the Inaugural CVI and Simon's Fund "The Heart of Youth Sports" CME for health professionals, held February 22 in Philadelphia.

He was a panelist for "Teamwork: Managing the Care of the Student Athlete."

Also on the panel was **Nandini Madan, MD**, assistant professor of pediatrics, who is a cardiologist at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children.



Dr. Madan



Dr. Joshi

**Suresh G. Joshi, MD, MSc, PhD**, director of the Center for Surgical Infections and Biofilms, and assistant professor, Department of Microbiology & Immunology, and School of Biomedical Engineering, Science & Health Systems; Adam Yost, PhD, former graduate student, and Siddharth Joshi,

former undergraduate research co-op, both in the School of Biomedical Engineering; **Garth D. Ehrlich, PhD**, professor, Department of Microbiology & Immunology, and executive director of the Center for Advanced Microbial Processing, and colleagues published "Microarray Analysis of Transcriptomic Response of *Escherichia coli* to Nonthermal Plasma-Treated PBS Solution" in *Advances in Bioscience and Biotechnology*, February 2015.

In addition, Suresh Joshi; Utku Ercan, PhD (lead author), former student; Siddharth Joshi; Yost; Natalie Gogotsi, former undergraduate research volunteer; Sean O'Toole, former research co-op; **Michelle Paff, MD '12**; and **Eric Melchior, MS '10**, published "Inhibition of Biofilms by Non-Thermal Plasma Treated Novel Solutions" in *Advances in Microbiology*, December 2014.

## Calendar

### May

Hepatitis Awareness Month

- 15 **Commencement**
- 20 **Cardiac Auscultation for the Generalist in Office Practice**  
New College Building, 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.  
Contact: Robin Borlandoe, 215.762.7610
- 30 **Best of DDW & EASL 2015**  
Highlights from Digestive Disease Week and European Association for the Study of the Liver meeting  
New College Building, 8 a.m.–1 p.m.  
Contact: Melissa Coleman, 215.762.2219

### June

Men's Health Month

- 5 **14th Annual Faculty Development Day**  
Queen Lane Campus
- 18–21 **ENRICH: American Academy on Communication in Healthcare National Faculty Development Course**  
"Meeting at the Crossroads of Communication and Professionalism"  
Queen Lane Campus  
Visit [aachonline.org/dnn/events/ENRICH/2015.aspx](http://aachonline.org/dnn/events/ENRICH/2015.aspx)
- 22 **Stamatakis Golf Classic**  
Philadelphia Cricket Club  
Visit [drexmed.edu/golf](http://drexmed.edu/golf) or email [golf@drexmed.edu](mailto:golf@drexmed.edu)

### July

Juvenile Arthritis Awareness Month

- 3 **Independence Day Holiday**
- 21–22 **Fundamentals of Medical Research Seminar**  
New College Building, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.  
Contact: Michele Taylor, 215.762.4661

### August

National Immunization Awareness Month

- 3–7 **Class of 2019 Orientation**
- 7 **White Coat Ceremony**

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**Alumni: For information about the White Coat Ceremony, please call 215.255.7345 or email [medical.alumni@drexel.edu](mailto:medical.alumni@drexel.edu).**

**Olga Kahn**, PhD candidate in the Neuroscience program, published a paper with her mentor, **Peter Baas, PhD**, professor, Department of Neurobiology & Anatomy, "Effects of Kinesin-5 Inhibition on Dendritic Architecture and Microtubule Organization," in *Molecular Biology of the Cell*, Vol. 26, No. 1 (January 1, 2015).



**Dr. Kresh**

**J. Yasha Kresh, PhD**, professor in the Departments of Cardiothoracic Surgery and Medicine, and in the School of Biomedical Engineering, Science & Health Systems, and research director of cardiothoracic surgery and cardiovascular biophysics, and colleagues at Boston University and the University of Pennsylvania published "Mechanically-Stimulated Contraction of Engineered Cardiac Constructs Using a Microcantilever," a featured article in the online publication *IEEE Transactions on Biomedical Engineering*. The clinical relevance of this work is that it explains how chest impact may give rise to deadly cardiac arrhythmias, how precordial (chest) thump can restart the heart and, more intriguingly, that mechanical (percussive) pacing without using electrical stimulation is possible.



**Dr. Mell**

**Joshua Chang Mell, PhD**, **Sergey Balashov** and **Garth D. Ehrlich, PhD**, all in the Department of Microbiology & Immunology, and colleagues published "Complete Genome Sequence of *Haemophilus influenzae* Strain 375 from the Middle Ear of a Pediatric Patient with Otitis Media" in *Genome Announcements*, November/December 2014.

Mell is also an author of "Highly Constrained Intergenic *Drosophila* Ultraconserved Elements Are Candidate ncRNAs" in *Genome Biology and Evolution*, March 2015 (epub ahead of print, January 23).



**Ms. Navarra**

**Rachel Navarra**, a PhD candidate in the Neuroscience program, has been awarded a Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award pre-doctoral fellowship from the National Institute on Drug Abuse for her project "Methylphenidate Enhancement of Early Stage Sensory Processing." Navarra is doing thesis research in the laboratory of Barry Waterhouse, PhD.



**Mr. Okons**

**Justin Okons**, a second-year medical student, has won a fellowship from the United Health Foundation/NMF Diverse Medical Scholars Program. The program provides awards to 22 underrepresented minority medical students who have demonstrated leadership at an early stage of their careers and are committed to serving medically underserved communities. Each awardee conducts a

self-directed community health project of 200 hours at a site of their choice in an underserved community.



**Dr. Pachter**

**Lee M. Pachter, DO**, professor of pediatrics, has been named editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics*. He had served as an associate editor of the journal since 1997. Pachter is chief of the Section of General Pediatrics and associate chair for community pediatrics at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children.

**Amir Pelleg, PhD**, adjunct professor of medicine, Division of Cardiology, is co-author of a review, "Cardiac Purinergic Signalling in Health and Disease," published in *Purinergic Signalling*, March 2015 (epub ahead of print: December 20, 2014). He also recently co-authored two papers, "Effects of Aerosolized Adenosine 5'-triphosphate in Smokers and Patients with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease" in *Chest Online First* (January 15), and "Adenosine 5'-triphosphate in the Management of Patients with Syncope" in *American Journal of Therapeutics*, February 2015.



**Dr. Petrucci**

**Ralph J. Petrucci, EdD**, clinical professor in the Departments of Psychiatry and Medicine, was invited to participate in a conference on cognitive impairment in heart failure patients held in December 2014 in Buenos Aires, Argentina, at Favaloro University and Foundation. His presentation, "Cognitive Evaluation of Patients With Ventricular Assist Devices," was in part supported and sponsored through Drexel's Office of International Programs.



**Dr. Shumsky**



**Dr. Waterhouse**

**Jed Shumsky, PhD**, associate professor, and **Barry Waterhouse, PhD**, professor, both in the Department of Neurobiology & Anatomy, co-authored a paper with former neuroscience graduate student **Shevon Bhattacharya, MS '12**, Neuroscience (lead author), "Attention Enhancing Effects of Methylphenidate Are Age-Dependent," in *Experimental Gerontology*, Vol. 61, January 2015.



**Dr. Trojian**

**Thomas Trojian, MD**, faculty member in the Division of Sports Medicine, and colleagues are authors of "The Effects of a State Concussion Law on the Frequency of Sport-Related Concussions as Seen in Two Emergency Departments" in *Injury Epidemiology* (published online February 26, 2015).





Dr. Turchi

**Renee Turchi, MD, MPH**, associate professor of pediatrics, and Susan Solecki, MS, assistant clinical professor, College of Nursing and Health Professions, are co-authors of "Pharming: Pill Parties Can Be Deadly for Teens," the cover article in the November 2014 issue of *Contemporary Pediatrics*.

Turchi, who is also an associate professor at Drexel's School of Public Health, is a pediatrician at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children. The authors were asked to contribute additional information on the subject of pharming parties to the philly.com "Healthy Kids" blog (January 29, 2015).



Dr. Waterhouse

**Barry D. Waterhouse, PhD**, professor, Department of Neurobiology & Anatomy, gave a keynote address, "Baseball, Psychostimulants and Norepinephrine?" at the annual Delaware Neuroscience Research and Poster Symposium held at the University of Delaware on December 5, 2014. Also in December, Waterhouse was promoted to the status of fellow in the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology.

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## Nonclinical Screening Links HCV Patients to Care

Many of the three to five million Americans with hepatitis C virus don't know they are infected. Most screening occurs in clinical settings, and the populations at highest risk for HCV — intravenous drug users, the incarcerated and the homeless — are less likely to be tested. To reach them, the "Do One Thing, Change Everything" campaign went door to door. A study led by Drexel physician Stacey Trooskin shows that when advocates made this focused effort in a medically underserved area, they were able to help patients get screened, diagnosed and treated.\*

"This study demonstrates the importance of community-based testing for HCV in identifying previously undiagnosed individuals and re-engaging those aware of their diagnosis but not currently in care," says Trooskin, an assistant professor in the Division of Infectious Diseases & HIV Medicine.

"We learned that a comprehensive approach to nonclinical testing is critical and must integrate immediate access to confirmatory testing as well as

intensive patient navigation to effectively link patients to care. Although hepatitis C is now a curable disease, we identified new barriers to care, such as the need for a referral to subspecialty care and challenges obtaining medication approval for patients, particularly those covered under Medicaid."

The "Do One Thing" campaign — a collaboration between Drexel University College of Medicine and Brown University School of Medicine — began in December 2012 [*Pulse*, September/October 2013]. Patients with confirmed hepatitis C infections have been offered a full suite of services to guide them through the process of gaining health insurance, access to medical specialists and, ultimately, to a hepatitis C cure.

As of February 2014, the Do One Thing team had tested 1,301 people and found that 4 percent had anti-HCV antibodies. When area residents consented to screening, they filled out demographic questionnaires while awaiting results. A third of the people (433 of 1,301) had been incarcerated, many had histories of drug use or mental health conditions, and more than half earned less than \$15,000 a year.

Of the 52 people positive for antibodies on the initial screening, only four were already engaged in HCV care. Research has shown that the first critical barrier to treatment is lack of testing to confirm preliminary test results. In Do One Thing, immediate confirmatory testing helped ensure that patients remained in care.

\*"Results From a Geographically Focused, Community-Based HCV Screening, Linkage-to-Care and Patient Navigation Program" in *Journal of General Internal Medicine* (February 2015). Authors in addition to Trooskin were from Brown, Rhode Island Public Health Institute, Wesleyan University and Jefferson Medical College. Funding for the research came from an HIV FOCUS grant of Gilead Sciences, the National Institutes of Health and the Brown University Alcohol Research Center on HIV.



# An Extension of ...

I was handed my first white coat almost 10 years ago, but at the time, I worked behind a sturdy, gray lab bench beneath shelves filled with bottles containing solvents and buffers. And, instead of patient monitors, the sounds of my profession included the whir of a nearby centrifuge and the occasional hiss from a tank of liquid nitrogen.

Most of the time, I held a pipette in one hand and an Eppendorf tube in the other, isolating the RNA and DNA from tumor biopsies of patients who I would never meet, patients who I only knew as a string of random numbers. But that changed as a result of a chance encounter. While I usually saw graduate students and postdocs from my lab and others, as well as the sweat-covered FedEx delivery guy carrying shipments in Styrofoam boxes, I never expected a patient to walk through the door. He and his wife were there to meet with the professor I worked for, but because he was not in the office, they came to me.

When he approached me, he said with a touch of dry humor, "Hi, I'm sample ID 39562."

As impersonal as that might sound, those numbers carried a lot of meaning. They meant that he was a patient with glioblastoma multiforme, that he might have a life expectancy of less than a year, and that, just a couple weeks earlier, in a small frozen tube, I had worked on a sample of his tumor. I also had labeled a number of items with that ID since then, including a gene expression microarray which could provide information about the molecular and genetic "barcode" of his tumor. Though the odds were slim, he hoped it might provide a new direction in treating his cancer.

With the burden of the diagnosis that he and his family bore, I wanted to do anything I could for them. But despite all my good intentions, all I could do was keep them company for the half an hour that it took my professor to finish his meeting. I wanted to avoid any mention of cancer, but when I had exhausted everything I could tell them about our science, the words slipped: "How have you been?"

The conversation began with a simple reply, but I remember those words even a decade later: "It's been hard, but I'm trying to stay positive."

He said that he had been flying between North Carolina and California to receive an experimental treatment while making sure he spent as much time as possible with his family. Before his diagnosis, he had been a successful entrepreneur, and much of his time had been spent on creating a thriving business. Then came "this wrecking ball." Looking back, he would have

traded his success for time — time to be with his family and time to spend with his children. Even just a few more months seemed like a miracle to him. So he started surfing the literature on glioblastoma in search of experimental treatments. And soon enough, he discovered our lab. Though we weren't studying treatments, he nonetheless made contributions to our research because "it was important."

I could only try to imagine what it was like to be in his shoes, to face some unseen enemy, and to wonder each day if the next month was his last. While we were walking down the hall, his wife pointed to a nearby flier for a graduate student's thesis defense and asked if the subject was relevant to treating her husband's cancer.

When I saw those announcements, I'll admit, the first thing that came to mind was a keg and a celebration to toast the conclusion of six years of hard work. It is the last presentation graduate students give before they graduate, before they receive their PhD, and before they take on the title and independence of a doctor. But that day, she reminded me of how much people depend on the progress that that thesis defense represented. She also helped me to realize how easy it is to forget the strides that medical technology has made and that more strides are waiting to be made.

I'd like to think that technology brought out the entrepreneur in this patient. As his life was nearing its end, he fought even harder. That's why technology is an important part of providing meaningful care. It can give patients something to brace themselves with, and in the short amount of time they have, a reason to

stay positive and believe that they put up a good fight. He never truly stopped being a successful business person; the only thing that changed was what he invested in. One day, when I see an advertisement about personalized cancer therapies, I'll know he played a role in making it available to the world.

Technology is a lot of things. But it is far from being just a tool, a vaccine, or a \$125 million proton therapy center. There's so much creativity, effort, and life that went into making technology a reality: It is an extension of humanity, its anger, its desire for excitement, and its desire to protect. By the time a piece of technology is boxed and shipped, we forget this sometimes. Patient 39562, I found out, died the following spring. I never offered him any meaningful care, and as I later learned, there was really nothing else that anyone could provide. But that doesn't mean technology completely abandoned him. Aside from a little extra time, I think he found what he needed ... his desire for hope.

*This essay was originally published in the October 2014 issue of Academic Medicine. To listen to the author reading his essay aloud, visit [academicmedicineblog.org/author-reading-an-extension-of/](http://academicmedicineblog.org/author-reading-an-extension-of/).*



**Jason Y. Liu, then a second-year student, won third place in the Gold-Hope Tang, MD, 2014 Humanism in Medicine Essay Contest, sponsored by the Arnold P. Gold Foundation, for "An Extension of ..."**



## The Gift of Sight: James Guzek, MD, HU '78

In 2010, cataract surgeon and corneal specialist James Guzek, MD, HU '78, helped erect an eye clinic in the remote western Ethiopian town of Dembi Dollo. It was the last day of his two-week session there, and no operations were scheduled. Supplies were low. Yet there was a line. A woman, about 30 years old, began sobbing. Dr. Guzek was the first ophthalmologist in that part of the country, and now he was leaving. The woman had been blind for eight years. She had four children, two of whom she had never seen. They spoke:

"Where were you the last five days?" Guzek asked.

"I was here every day," she replied.

"It was like she stuck a knife in my heart," Guzek says. "We operated on her. But people were crying when I left, 'My eye! My eye!'"

"When I first became an ophthalmologist," Guzek says, "the Lord made it very clear to me this was a gift — to be able to restore sight to the blind. It wasn't given to me to make me rich. I understood that pretty clearly from the start, so that was a blessing."

Growing up in Scranton, Pa., Guzek wasn't set on becoming a doctor. Then he was accepted into the Wilkes-Hahnemann Medical program out of high school, which granted Wilkes University undergraduates admission to the medical school if they maintained a certain GPA and scored well on the MCAT. Guzek thought, "This door seems to be opening. Let's see where this takes me." Once at Hahnemann, he says, he quickly realized "I like this. I can do this."

Guzek did an ophthalmology rotation because his father, Joseph T. Guzek, MD, was an ophthalmologist. Guzek reasoned, "I should know more about the eyes than that I have two of them." After that rotation, he says, "I was smitten."

Throughout his internship and residency, Guzek says, "I had my father guiding me all the way." Guzek senior sent his son to an ophthalmologic master course in New York. He learned anatomic dissection, oculoplastics, and other techniques "with some of the best people in the world."

When the opportunity came to work at the newly opened King Khaled Eye Specialist Hospital in Saudi Arabia, Guzek's father gave his blessing to the endeavor, although his son had been slated to work with him in Scranton. King Khaled was Guzek's first experience treating Third World illnesses. "My eyes opened — there are a lot of blind people in the world who are needlessly blind," he says. "God laid it on my heart that the best gift I was given was not just for me but it was to serve him." Guzek spent the next three years in Sri Lanka under the Christian Blind Mission.

When he returned to the United States, Guzek served as chief of ophthalmology at the VA Hospital in Loma Linda, Calif. After he got married, he and his wife, Roberta, an LPN, went to Ghana with the Catholic Church to begin an eye program there. Roberta assumed the clinical and training work, freeing Guzek for surgery.

After their experience in Ghana, Guzek thought he was done with international work. Then he saw a video, produced by physician Larry Thomas, calling for eye doctors in a remote area of Ethiopia. Considering the scope of the endeavor, Guzek thought, "They're never going to find anybody. Nobody's going to go out there. So, I better go." This was 2010.

Guzek was skeptical about how much could be accomplished in two weeks. The first visit is essentially a "scouting expedition." Yet under poor conditions, his team performed more than 50 surgeries until supplies ran out. "I couldn't get to the end of the line of blind people," Guzek says, "even doing one eye per patient. It was heartbreaking."

In Ethiopia, 1.6 percent of the population (including children) is blind. Although much of the blindness stems from cataracts, Guzek says, that doesn't account for the total high number, and the reason cataracts are so widespread is unknown.

Guzek has returned to Ethiopia several times since 2010. In 2013, he and Thomas hired an Ethiopian ophthalmologist, Samuel Bora, to operate the eye camp several weeks a month. Bora had been volunteering his time at the camp, and Guzek and Thomas stepped up to make his work more sustainable. "We're so pleased to be able to work with him, and help him help his people," Guzek says.

If Bora were to leave, there would be no eye care in this part of the country. "One man can't reach everybody," Guzek acknowledges, "but 3,500 cataract surgeries a year in Western Ethiopia is not a small thing."

Reflecting on the future of the eye camp, Guzek hopes Bora and Mitico, a trained surgical nurse, will continue to be involved. He says they would like an optical lab "because [without one] there's really no possibility of having glasses." A nun travels once a month, a 16- to 20-hour drive, for medical supplies. Guzek brings other essentials when he visits.

Although Guzek lives in Washington now and is a surgeon with the Pacific Cataract and Laser Institute, his heart remains with his mission work, particularly in Dembi Dollo. "I think we're very blessed in America. Blessings are made to be shared," he says. "I'm not doing anything all that special. I'm doing what I think we should all be doing: looking in front of us and seeing what we can do to help."



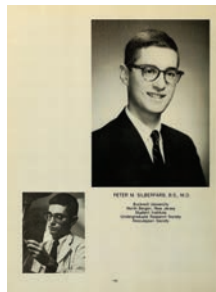
**Dr. Guzek's heart is in his mission work.**

## '60s

**Ronald D. Emkey, MD, HU '65; Internal Medicine Resident, HU '70**, is in practice with his son Gregory R. Emkey, MD, in Emkey Arthritis & Osteoporosis Clinic, Inc., in Wyomissing, Pa. Father and son completed their fellowship training in the same Harvard Medical School program at Massachusetts General Hospital. Emkey Senior served from 1972 to 2000 as chief of rheumatology at the Reading Hospital and Medical Center. In 1990, he founded the Bone Research Center at the hospital, becoming medical director and primary investigator. He also held an appointment as clinical associate professor of medicine at Temple University. In 1999, he founded his private practice. He also served as medical director of Radiant Research/Reading from 1999 to 2005. Still active in research at his current practice, over the years Emkey has been involved in studies leading to every osteoporosis treatment available today and in the development of several rheumatoid arthritis drugs. To date, he has published more than 135 abstracts or manuscripts. Most recently, father and son co-authored an article, "Calcium Metabolism and Correcting Calcium Deficiencies," published in *Endocrinology and Metabolism Clinics*, September 2012. Ronald Emkey's brother is **Kenneth Emkey, MD, HU '72**.



**Peter M. Silberfarb, MD, HU '65; Internal Medicine Intern, HU '66**, emeritus chairman of psychiatry and emeritus professor of psychiatry and medicine at Dartmouth, writes: "As my 50-year reunion approaches, my colleagues might be interested in what I have been up to over the past five decades during my one-stop career at Dartmouth Medical School ... and that I am still married to Anne, for 53 years." Silberfarb is an active emeritus, still engaged in teaching residents. He has held the roles of president of the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology; director of the American Board of Family Medicine; member of the executive committee of the American Board of Medical Specialties; and president of the American Association of Chairs of Departments of Psychiatry. His clinical and research focus has been on the interface between psychiatry and oncology, and he has more than 100 publications to his credit, as well as having served on the editorial board of four journals. He has also been a member of various NIH review committees and a consultant to WHO and the National Cancer Institute. In 2003 Dartmouth established an endowed lectureship in his honor, and in 2010 dedicated a medical conference room in his name.



## '70s

**Bruce Levy, MD, HU '71; JD**, is CEO of Austin Gastroenterology and Austin Endoscopy centers in Austin, Texas, and a board member of the Texas Ambulatory Surgery Center Society.

**David Paul Kelsen, MD, HU '72**, was appointed chair of the Clinical Advisory Board of Intezyne Technologies. Kelsen is Edward S. Gordon Chair in Medical Oncology at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center and serves on the center's gastrointestinal oncology service and its research council.

**Richard Neal Ash, MD, MCP '76**, founder of the Ash Center for Comprehensive Medicine in New York City and WellNEST, a healthy living center in Sag Harbor, N.Y., hosts the radio talk show "Sick and Tired of Being Sick and Tired?" on 77 WABC.

**Richard Houck, MD, HU '76**, recently published a book, *Assume the Position: Memoirs of an Obstetrician Gynecologist*, in which there are many references to his medical education at Hahnemann.

**Barbara Courtney, MD, HU '77**, relocated her practice to Tinton Falls, N.J. The practice is part of Barnabas Health Medical Group. Courtney is also a medical director of the Barnabas Health Accountable Care Organization. She is board certified in internal medicine and geriatrics.

**Richard Cohen, PhD, Psychiatry, MCP '78**, is president and CEO of Public Health Management Corp., the Philadelphia manager and operator of more than 350 public health programs and 12 affiliates serving more than 300,000 clients with such issues as HIV, drug and alcohol dependency, behavioral health, asbestos, asthma and homelessness.

**Stephen Klasko, MD, HU '78**, president and CEO of Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, was listed in the *Philadelphia Business Journal* as one of 10 individuals who are "Veteran Transformers."

## '80s

**Mark S. Allen, MD, HU '82**, a cardiothoracic surgeon at the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minn., and professor of surgery at the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine, was named president of the Society of Thoracic Surgeons.

**Miriam E. Bar-on, MD, HU '82**, associate dean for graduate medical education and designated institutional official at the University of Nevada School of Medicine, received the Parker J. Palmer Courage to Lead award from the Accreditation Council on Graduate Medical Education. She is also a professor of pediatrics and associate program director for the pediatrics residency.





**Michael Kropilak, MD, HU '82**, board certified in general and vascular surgery, is a general surgeon at Fort Sanders Regional Medical Center, Knoxville, Tenn.

**Catherine A. Hanlon MD, HU '83**. See page 10.

**Daniel J. Rader, MD, MCP '84**, chair, Department of Genetics, and Seymour Gray Professor of Molecular Medicine, Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, spoke at Alnylam Pharmaceuticals' R&D Day on the progress of Alnylam's RNAi therapeutics pipeline.

**Susan Clark Ball, MD, MCP '85; MPH**, an associate attending physician and assistant director of the Bernbaum Unit, Center for Special Studies, at New York–Presbyterian Hospital and associate professor of clinical medicine at Weill Cornell Medical College, is the author of *Voices in the Band: A Doctor, Her Patients, and How the Outlook on AIDS Care Changed From Doomed to Hopeful* (Cornell University Press, March 2015).

**Joe Hulihan, MD, HU '86; Neurology Residency, HU '90**, has formed Paradigm Consulting LLC to provide strategic direction for biopharmaceutical development. He elected to leave Johnson & Johnson after more than 15 years in medical affairs and R&D, most recently serving as leader of Global Medical Affairs, Neuroscience, for Janssen Global Services. Hulihan is completing a master's degree in health policy, focused primarily on mental health policy and mental health–criminal justice interactions.

**Jeffrey Nolt, MD, HU '86**, has joined the Cole Memorial Medical Group in Coudersport, Pa. He is board certified in family medicine.

**Eugene Dixon, MD, HU '87**, a urologist at Lake Regional Health System, Osage Beach, Miss., earned board recertification in urology by the American Board of Urology and achieved the highest score possible on the exam.

**Richard Zamarin, MD, HU '87; Orthopedic Surgery Resident, HU '92**, has joined Liberty Orthopaedics, a division of Premier Orthopaedics, in Ridley Park, Pa. He is board certified in orthopedic surgery.

**Paula Whiteman, MD, MCP '88**, was elected president of the American Academy of Pediatrics, California Chapter 2, for 2014–2016. Whiteman is clinical assistant professor of emergency medicine at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Los Angeles. She is board certified in emergency medicine with subspecialty certification in pediatric emergency medicine.



## '90s

**Daniel Edmundowicz, MS, HU '86; MD, HU '90**, recently returned to Philadelphia to become professor of medicine, chief of cardiology and vice chair for program development in the Department of Medicine at Temple University School of Medicine. Edmundowicz is also the medical director of the Temple Heart and Vascular Institute.



**David Zolfaghari, MD, MCP '90**, a cardiothoracic surgeon at CoxHealth-affiliated Ferrell-Duncan Clinic in Springfield, Miss., was featured as a "Top Doctor" in the *Springfield Business Journal*.

**Henry Hooker, MD, MCP '92; Internal Medicine Intern, MCP '93**, was featured in an article about migraines on BriefingWire.com. Hooker is board certified in neurology and has a subspecialty board certification in headache medicine. He practices at the Cumberland Neurology Group in Oak Ridge, Tenn., where he founded the Headache Center.

**Jonathan A. Dranoff, MD, MCP '93**, director of gastroenterology and hepatology and Jerome S. Levy Professor of Medicine at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, was appointed chair of the Liver Fibrosis Special Interest Group for the American Association for the Study of Liver Disease. Dranoff was also appointed associate editor of the journal *Purinergic*.

**Anita I. Miedziak, MD, MCP '93**, was listed as one of the "Best Ophthalmologists in New Jersey" by vision.health-tourism.com. Miedziak is director of Cornea and Contact Lens Services at the Princeton [N.J.] Eye Group.

**Mary Beth Malay, MD, MCP '94**, joined the Allegheny Health Network's Breast Surgeons in Wexford, Pa. Prior to this she developed the multidisciplinary breast care program at University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Passavant and served as its medical director.

**Michael Perlmutter, MS, Medical Science, HU '94; PharmD**, was appointed medical director of Physicians' Education Resource, a New Jersey–based live and online medical education resource that focuses on oncology and hematology. Perlmutter plans and develops the scientific content for the organization's CME cancer programs for clinicians.

**Chad D. Caldwell, MD, MCP '96**, became a general surgeon at Penn Highlands DuBois in DuBois, Pa., in December 2014. Caldwell previously maintained a full-time practice in North Carolina.

**Jimmy Ruiz, MD, HU '98**, an obstetrician-gynecologist at Abington Memorial Hospital, was elected president of the board of directors of the Mazzoni Center, Philadelphia's LGBT health care and wellness center.

**Renee Turchi, MD, MCP '98; MPH**. See page 13.

## '00s

**Brian Cocca, PhD, Microbiology & Immunology '02**, an attorney, was appointed partner at the Malvern, Pa., office of the Stradley Ronon law firm, where his focus is intellectual property and drafting and prosecuting biotechnology and pharmaceutical patent applications.

**Paul R. Gittens, MD '03**, a board-certified urologist, opened the Philadelphia Center for Sexual Medicine in Bala Cynwyd, Pa. Gittens is an assistant professor of urology, and obstetrics and gynecology at Albert Einstein College of Medicine and is director of sexual dysfunction, male fertility and andrology at Montefiore Medical Center, Bronx, N.Y.



**Kurt Miceli, MD '03**, was appointed medical director of Carson Valley Children's Aid, a nonprofit located in Flourtown, Pa., that provides services to children, youth and families. Miceli is an adjunct professor of health care economics at Villanova University. He is board certified in internal medicine and psychiatry.

**Robert Hyun Cho, MD '04, Orthopedic Surgery Resident '09**, a pediatric orthopedic surgeon, has been named interim chief of staff at Shriners Hospitals for Children—Los Angeles. He previously served as vice president of the medical staff at Shriners. Cho completed his fellowship training at the University of California, San Diego, School of Medicine in conjunction with Rady Children's Hospital—San Diego. He is board certified in orthopedic surgery.



**Julia Krout, MLAS '04**, joined New York University Medical Center as an assistant operations manager, a new position created to assist the center's Laboratory Animal Resource program as it grows.



**Ashish Raju, MD '04**, became a fellow of the American College of Surgeons at the 2014 annual Clinical Congress in San Francisco. Raju is a vascular surgeon at the Carilion Clinic New River Valley Medical Center in Christiansburg, Va., and is double board certified in general and vascular surgery.

**Nikhil Agarwal, MD '06**, a gastroenterologist, is now at the Sutter Pacific Medical Foundation, San Francisco. He is also affiliated with California Pacific Medical Center. Agarwal completed his internship and residency at Cedars-Sinai and his fellowship at UCLA School of Medicine.

**Rachel Goodman, MD; MS, Biological Science '06**, an obstetrician-gynecologist, completed her residency at The University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center and joined Presbyterian Española Hospital in Española, N.M., in September 2014.

**Wahid Tazudeen, MD '06**, a clinical neurophysiologist, has taken over his retired father's medical practice at the Neurology Clinic of Danville, Ill. He is also on the medical staff of Presence United Samaritans Medical Center.

**Michaela Remtulla, MD '07**, joined the Women and Infants Center of Jefferson Hospital in Pittsburgh, Pa. Previously she was an obstetrician-gynecologist at Mid-Atlantic Permanente Medical Group in Silver Spring, Md.

**Dafna Ahdoot, MD '08**, a pediatrician at Tarzana Pediatrics Medical Group in Tarzana, Calif., was listed by Vitals.com in the Super Doctors list of "2014 Southern California Rising Stars" and named "Patient's Choice Award Winner" for the third consecutive year.

**Anubhav P. Jagadish, MD '08**, an orthopedic surgeon, joined Barrington Orthopedic Specialists in Schaumburg, Ill. He completed his residency at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit and fellowship training in spine care at the University of California, San Diego.

## '10s

**Douglas Barnas, MD '10**, an obstetrician-gynecologist, joined Conemaugh Physician Group Obstetrics/Gynecology in Johnstown, Pa. He completed his residency at Virginia Commonwealth University Medical Center.

**Shevon Bhattacharya, MS, Neuroscience '12**. See Shumsky, page 12.

**Derek M. Kendig, PhD, Pharmacology & Physiology '12**, becomes assistant professor of biology at Loyola University, Md., effective August 2015. Kendig performed postdoctoral research at the Medical College of Virginia in the Department of Physiology and Biophysics.

**Meaghan Johnson, MD '13**, is in her second year of residency at St. Vincent Hospital, Erie, Pa., and is using one of her residency electives at the Health and Wellness Center at Penn State Erie, The Behrend College, from which she received her undergraduate degree in business management.

**Laura Turner, MLAS '13**, was among students representing 26 veterinary schools who met with members of Congress as part of the American Veterinary Medical Association's 2015 Legislative Fly-In. Turner is a second-year veterinary student at Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine at Virginia Tech.

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# Former Residents and Fellows

(alphabetical)

**Joshua Abzug, MD; Orthopedic Surgery Resident '09**, was named a 2014 "Top Doctor" by *Baltimore* magazine. Abzug is a pediatric orthopedic surgeon at the University of Maryland Medical Center in Timonium, Md., where he is also an assistant professor of orthopedics.

**Thompson Boyd, MD; Internal Medicine Resident, HU '82**, a physician liaison at Hahnemann University Hospital, presented "Risky Business: Mitigating mHealth Work-arounds with 'Usable' Security" at the *Healthcare IT News* Privacy and Security Symposium, mHealth Summit 2014.

**Lydia G. Corn, MD; Internal Medicine Resident, MCPHU '85**, reopened her internal medicine practice in Sarasota, Fla., after several years working in the pharmaceutical industry. Her focus is diet, nutrition and wellness.

**Kristin D. Hudacek, MD; Dermatology Resident '13**, a board-certified dermatologist and fellow of the American Academy of Dermatology, published an article, "Current Options for Laser Hair Removal," in *DERMASCOPE* magazine. Hudacek practices in San Francisco, Calif.

**Holly Michaelson, MD; General Surgery Resident '04**, a board-certified surgeon and the director of minimally invasive and robotic surgery at Cooley Dickinson Medical Group General Surgical Care in Northampton, Mass., became a fellow of the American College of Surgeons.

**Chileshe Nkonde-Price, MD; Internal Medicine Resident '10**, was appointed to lead the Women's Cardiovascular Program at Penn Medicine in Philadelphia. She is also assistant professor of medicine at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania.

**Hany Salah, DO; Anesthesiology Resident, HU '96**, was named a 2014 "Top Doctor" by *Baltimore* magazine. Salah is an attending anesthesiologist at Johns Hopkins and serves as chief medical officer at EagleForce, a software engineering company in Northern Va.

**Loice Swisher, MD; Emergency Medicine Resident, MCP '92**, wrote an article, "Probably Drunk," in *Emergency Medicine News*, about the diagnostic challenges in the ER. Swisher is an emergency room physician at Mercy Philadelphia Hospital.

**Zyad Younan, MD; Internal Medicine Resident '01**, was named to the 2014 "Top Doctors" list by *New Jersey Monthly* magazine. Younan is a clinical cardiac electrophysiologist in Parlin, N.J.

# In Memoriam

## Alumni

**Stanley B. Apple, MD, HU '43**, January 12  
**Stella Y. Botelho, MD, WMC '49**, March 11  
**Fredric S. Brandt, MD, HU '75**, April 5  
**Donald J. Brown, MD, HU '60**, February 28  
**Theodore J. Deonna, MD, HU '56**, February 18  
**Arnold R. DeMarco, MD, HU '58**, January 18  
**Jeanne A. Epstein, MD, WMC '53**, March 26  
**Herbert A. Faust, MD, HU '52**, February 9  
**Kathryn Feldi, MD, WMC '47**, February 14  
**William D. Harris, MD, HU '55**, March 11  
**Hazel Irene Holst, MD, WMC '58**, April 9  
**Dorothy Johnston, MD, WMC '36**, January 17  
**Louisa J. Lance, MD, MCP '73**, February 1  
**Gordon D. Myers, MD, HU '47**, January 27  
**Elaine F. Needell, MD, HU '50**, January 22  
**Carl Edwin Reichert, Jr., MD, HU '58**, January 21  
**Melvin S. Robinson, MD, HU '53**, December 5  
**Isabella K. Sharpe, MD, MCP '73**, February 28  
**Roberta M. Sherwin, MD, WMC '55**, March 10  
**Thomas H. Teruya, MD, HU '62**, January 21

**Henry Joseph Dobies, MD, HU '53**, passed away January 31 in Massena, N.Y., at the age of 87. After completing his training at Robert Packer Hospital in Sayre, Pa., he opened the Doctors' Clinic in Massena and operated it for more than 50 years. He was a certified charter diplomate of the American Board of Family Practice and a charter fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians. He helped found and co-owned the St. Regis Nursing Home, serving as medical director for 35 years. During his career, he served as an assistant clinical professor of family practice at SUNY Upstate Medical Center in Syracuse, and was director of medical education at Massena Memorial Hospital, among other positions. He held numerous offices in county and state medical organizations, including president of the New York State Academy of Family Physicians. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Peggy, and his children, Nancy Bogosian, Margaret Herman, Beth Anne Bogdovitz, and John Michael Dobies and their families, including five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

**Lisa M. Grandinetti, MD '04**, passed away on February 27 at the age of 38. She was a double alumna, having earned her master's in medical science from MCP Hahnemann University in 2000. In medical school, she served as vice president of the Student Government Association and was elected to Alpha Omega Alpha. A dermatologist, she went to the Cleveland Clinic for her residency. In 2009, she joined UPMC in Pittsburgh and became program director of the Dermatology Residency. In 2013, she created one of the first clinics in the country for patients with related skin and gastrointestinal disorders. She is survived by her husband, Jason Swoger, a gastroenterologist, and their daughter, Stella; her parents, Peter and Maria Grandinetti; and her sister, Gina Grandinetti Woodworth.

**Richard Katz, MD, HU '74**, died on December 19, 2014. He had retired. He was the husband of Janice Katz (nee Delson), MD, MCP '74. He is also survived by a son, Edward Katz.



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## June 22: Come Golf for a Great Cause

It's the first Monday of summer! Enjoy a beautiful day of golf in support of medical education at the 2015 Manuel Stamatakis Golf Classic. Held at the renowned Philadelphia Country Club, the event includes lunch, a round of golf, cocktail reception and awards dinner. For further information, visit [drexelmed.edu/golf](http://drexelmed.edu/golf) or contact Alyssa Abrohms, outing coordinator, to book your foursome at 215.255.7327 or [golf@drexelmed.edu](mailto:golf@drexelmed.edu).

