

# NEWSPAGER

January 2010

Newsletter Volume 11, No. 1

## *Medical Humanities: Understanding the Experience of Illness, Death & Dying*

What can medical students learn about being a doctor from reading poems and stories with titles such as “Having an MRI/ Waiting for Laundry” and “Alzheimer’s 1, Tom nil”? What do they gain from studying paintings by Rembrandt and Thomas Eakins, or from drawing portraits of the cadavers they are dissecting, or from learning about the history of dissection? Plenty, according to Steven Rosenzweig, M.D., clinical associate professor and director of the Medical Humanities Program at Drexel University College of Medicine.

“Our Medical Humanities Program is intended to better equip our medical students to respond to and relieve suffering, understand the experience of illness and disability, and find deeper value in practicing medicine,” says Rosenzweig. “Students also gain a greater ability to resolve ethical dilemmas, address the social dimensions of disease and understand the biases and limitations of science.”

Founded in 1976 by a DUCOM predecessor institution, the Medical College of Pennsylvania, the Medical Humanities Program was at the forefront of the movement to bring the study of medical ethics and humanities into medical education. One of the first such programs to be established nationwide, it remains the only medical humanities program among medical schools in Philadelphia today.

### **Cutting Cold Flesh**

Last academic year, nearly 600 students participated in eight Humanities electives and 12 grand rounds focused on art, literature and history. The core course, “Cutting Cold Flesh: Perspectives from the Humanities,” incorporates all three to help students deal

with a traditional, and often difficult, rite of passage – dissection of a cadaver. Created 10 years ago by Professor of Medicine Steven J. Peitzman, M.D., “Cutting Cold Flesh” places dissection in its historical, cultural, literary, spiritual and artistic context.

“Students gain an appreciation for the donors who bequeathed their



### *My Cadaver*

Michelle Paff, DUCOM medical student, class of 2012, drew this portrait of the cadaver she was dissecting in anatomy as part of her studies in the Medical Humanities “Cutting Cold Flesh” elective. The portrait was featured on the cover of *Academic Medicine* in July 2009. Following are excerpts from her reflections about her cadaver and the experience of dissection:

“She didn’t look like a real person when I saw her for the first time. Her face was permanently distorted and her skin stiff like rubber. But the more I looked at her, the more I realized she used to be a real living person. She was human: The crinkles around her eyes from smiling often, and even remnants of her nail polish accentuated her existence as a person.... every time I visit and study the gift this lady has given me, I see a selfless woman who has somehow taught me more about how precious life is than studying from a textbook....”

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**Richard V. Homan, M.D.**  
Senior Vice President for Health Affairs  
Annenberg Dean

## Discovery 2009 Features Exceptional Research

Discovery Day 2009 reflected the excitement and energy for research that continues to grow among not only our graduate students, technicians and postdoctoral fellows, but also our medical students and residents.

About 300 posters were presented representing basic, translational and clinical science

on topics as diverse as malaria, HIV/AIDS, infectious diseases, cancer, cardiology, spinal cord injury and repair, and behavioral neurobiology, among many others. The caliber of the abstracts presented was exceptional, growing more impressive each year.

More than 500 people in attendance heard a fascinating presentation by our keynote speaker, Evan Snyder, M.D., Ph.D., program director and professor, Stem Cells and Regenerative Biology, Burnham Institute of Medical Research. Dr. Snyder spoke on "Cross-Talk and Development Programs in Stem Cell Biology – A Key to Regenerative Medicine."

We were pleased that so many of our alumni returned to participate in the day's activities at Queen Lane, and also joined us for a dinner and awards ceremony at the Hilton Philadelphia City Avenue.

Congratulations to the winners for their outstanding work and to all who participated in the day's events, and sincere thanks to the faculty and staff and the Graduate Student Association for a truly spectacular day. As we begin a new decade of research, we look forward to the presentations that will emerge at Discovery 2010.

Dean's Office: 215-762-3500

### Discovery 2009 First Prize Winners

#### Faculty Awards and Special Awards

**Graduate Citation Award:** Steven DeArmond, M.D. (MCP '75), Ph.D. (MCP '72)

**Basic Scientist Faculty Award:** John Houle, Ph.D.

**Young Investigator Awards:** Eishi Noguchi, Ph.D. and Wen-Jun Gao, Ph.D.

#### Outstanding Platform Presentation

**Graduate Student:** Danielle Loughlin, Microbiology and Immunology

#### Outstanding Senior Graduate Student Poster

Adam Leman, Molecular and Cell Biology and Genetics

#### Outstanding Postdoctoral Fellow

Olga Mazin, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

#### Outstanding Junior Graduate Student Poster

Satinder Dahiya, Molecular and Cell Biology and Genetics

#### Outstanding Clinical Resident / Fellow Poster

Lohith Bachegowda, M.D., Medicine

#### Outstanding Medical Student Poster

Joel Jones, Class of 2012

#### Outstanding Technician Poster

Matthildi Valianou, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

#### Outstanding Undergraduate Poster

Alina Burek, Drexel University

#### Outstanding High School Poster

Quan Chen, Methacton High School

## Sadly Missed: Dr. Marian Haber

Dr. Marian Markowitz Haber, professor in the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, passed away following a long illness on October 4, 2009. She was 47. She was the wife of Dr. Alan Haber and mother of Jonah, Leora, Gideon and Rafael Haber. She is also survived by her mother, Sydell Markowitz, two sisters and a brother.

Haber earned her medical degree at Columbia University in 1987. She completed her pathology residency at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center and a two-year fellowship in gastrointestinal pathology at Yale before joining the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine as an assistant professor in July 1993.

In 1999 she was promoted to associate professor and started an outpatient pathology laboratory (PDL) that to this date is a success. In 2001 she became the director of surgical pathology at Graduate Hospital and medical director of the PDL. In 2004 she was promoted to professor, and in 2005 she became service chief and medical director at Graduate Hospital.

She was an author of over 35 publications in peer-reviewed journals and several chapters of GI pathology books, mostly on stomach and esophageal pathology related to reflux.

Haber was known for her insightful teaching to medical students, residents, fellow pathologists and clinicians; for her relentless pursuit of the accurate diagnosis for each patient; and most importantly, for her kindness and ability to be a true friend to all who had the privilege of knowing her. She will be dearly missed.

Contributions in her memory can be made to the Resident's Education Fund in the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at Drexel University College of Medicine, P.O. Box 8235, Philadelphia, PA 19101-9685. Gifts may also be made online at [www.drexelmed.edu/giftsonline](http://www.drexelmed.edu/giftsonline).



**Dr. Haber**

# New Faculty Reception



A festive cocktail reception to welcome new faculty drew more than 120 people on October 29 at the top of Loews Philadelphia Hotel. After Dean Richard V. Homan, M.D., introduced Dr. James (Jack) Wilberger as chairman of neurosurgery, Dr. Mary Moran, associate dean for faculty affairs, called upon the other chairs to introduce their new faculty members.





Ms. Criniti



Ms. Aaron

**Shannon Criniti, MPH,** and **Erika Aaron, MSN CRNP,** Division of Infectious Diseases and HIV Medicine, are authors of "Using the Rapid HIV Test to Rescreen Women in the Third Trimester of Pregnancy," published in the *Journal of Midwifery & Women's Health*, November-December 2009.

**Bruce Elliot Hirsch, Ph.D.,** associate professor, Department of Neurobiology and Anatomy, presented a paper entitled "The Application of 3D Image Processing to Studies of the Musculoskeletal System" at the SPIE Sixth International Symposium on Multispectral Image Processing and Pattern Recognition, held in Yichang, China, October 30-November 1. His co-authors included Sorin Siegler, Ph.D., professor in Drexel University's Department of Mechanical Engineering and Mechanics.

Hirsch served on the program committee for the symposium.



Dr. Minugh-Purvis

**Nancy Minugh-Purvis, Ph.D.,** associate professor, Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine and Office of Professional Studies in the Health Sciences, presented "Patterning of Facial Growth in Hemifacial Microsomia" and "Consistencies in Cephalofacial Growth Patterning in Patients with Apert Syndrome"

at the International Society of Craniofacial Surgery XIII Biennial Congress in Oxford, UK, in September.



Dr. Simmons

**B. Brent Simmons, M.D.,** assistant professor, Department of Family, Community, and Preventive Medicine, co-authored "Barriers to Risk Factor Modification, Diagnosis, and Treatment of HIV in Older Patients: A Case Report and Brief Review," which appeared in the July 2009 issue of *Clinical Geriatrics*.



Dr. Smolock

**Elaine M. Smolock, Ph.D., '08,** and **Danielle M. Trapanese,** a current graduate student, shared first authorship on a paper published in the November 2009 issue of *American Journal of Physiology: Heart and Circulatory Physiology* entitled "siRNA-Mediated Knockdown of h-Caldesmon in

Vascular Smooth Muscle." Current graduate student **Tanchun Wang** and 2008 Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship student **Paul Titchenell** were collaborators in this study. All worked in the laboratory of Robert S. Moreland, Ph.D., a professor in the Department of Pharmacology & Physiology.

**Anja Wagner, M.D.,** Drexel/Hahnemann cardiology resident, is a co-author of "EuroCMR (European Cardiovascular Magnetic Resonance) Registry: Results of the German Pilot Phase," in the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*, October 6 (published online August 12).



Dr. Xiao

**Gary S. Xiao, M.D.,** assistant professor, Department of Surgery, Division of Multi-Organ Transplantation and Hepatobiliary Surgery, presented "Pancreas Transplantation Using a Steroid-free Maintenance Protocol" at the 95th Annual Clinical Congress of the American College of Surgeons in Chicago, October 11-15.

## Division of Infectious Diseases & HIV Medicine Presentations

At the 137th American Public Health Association Annual Meeting & Exposition, November 7-11, in Philadelphia:

- Erika Aaron, MSN, CRNP, "Addressing the Reproductive Health Needs of Women Living with HIV"
- Shannon Criniti, MPH; and Aaron, "Home-based HIV Education Increases HIV Knowledge in Maternal Care Clients"
- Deborah White, MSW; Aaron, and Criniti, "Healthy Moms, Healthy Babies: Childbirth Classes for HIV-Positive Pregnant Women"
- Lenore Asbel, M.D., "Rectal Chlamydia Testing Among MSM Attending an STD Clinic"

At the 47th Annual Meeting of the Infectious Diseases Society of America, October 29-November 1, in Philadelphia:

- Drs. Dong H. Lee, Ole Vielemeyer, Paola Solari, and Mashiul Chowdhury, "IDSA Guidelines: What Evidence Are They Based On?" (oral presentation)
- Lee and Vielemeyer, "An Outbreak Investigation: Methicillin-Sensitive *Staph. aureus* (MSSA) Surgical Site Infection After Spinal Surgery" (poster presentation)

Submissions for Presentations & Publications and Grants & Kudos may now be emailed directly to [NewsPager@drexelmed.edu](mailto:NewsPager@drexelmed.edu). Please be sure to include all the relevant information, including full name, title, and department for any College of Medicine or University colleagues involved. For Grants & Kudos, please use the entries on page 11 of this issue as a model. Thank you.

# ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

In the tradition of Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania and Hahnemann Medical College



## Upcoming Events

January 28, 2010

### Body Worlds 2 & The Brain

6:00 p.m. Reception; 7:00 p.m. Lecture; 7:30 p.m. Exhibit  
The Franklin Institute, Philadelphia

March 11, 2010

### American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons Reception

6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.  
New Orleans Marriott – Mardi Gras F

April 30 – May 1, 2010

### Alumni Weekend

May 19 – 21, 2010

### 50 Year Reunion – Class of 1960

For more information contact the Office of Alumni Relations  
at **1-866-373-9633** or [medical.alumni@drexel.edu](mailto:medical.alumni@drexel.edu).  
Patty Comey, Director, Alumni Relations



Announcing the new electronic Drexel University College of Medicine Alumni Magazine! In order for you to view this exciting, innovative online publication, we need your email address. Send your name and email to [medical.alumni@drexel.edu](mailto:medical.alumni@drexel.edu).

## Saris Memorial Award to Help Residents

The legacy of alumni Drs. Demetrius Saris and Nadya Emanuelli-Saris, both HU '50, lives on not only in their children, but also in an unusual and fitting award their alumni offspring have established in honor of their parents. The senior Sarises met each other during their first year at Hahnemann Medical College in the late 1940s and were married for 55 years. While completing their medical training at Hahnemann University Hospital, the couple had two children. During that period they struggled to raise the children and afford appropriate child care, while continuing to fulfill the responsibilities of their medical training.



The Sarises ultimately had six children, four of whom became medical doctors, and three of whom earned their medical degrees from Hahnemann University. In appreciation of their parents' efforts, the three alumni children, Drs. Anne ('76), Steven ('77), and Theresa ('88) Saris, honored their parents by creating the Demetrius S. & Nadya E. Saris Memorial Award. First presented in November 2009, the award is to be offered each fall to an intern or resident at Hahnemann University Hospital to help pay for childcare. To apply for this award, please contact the Office of Graduate Medical Education at **215-762-2618**. If you are interested in creating an award or scholarship program, please contact John Zabinski in Institutional Advancement at **215-255-7343**.

## Primary Care Alumni Needed – Anywhere in the United States!

You have the opportunity to demonstrate the importance of primary care to our current first-year medical students.

The students in the Program for Integrated Learning (PIL), the College of Medicine's problem-based curriculum, participate in a Primary Care Practicum at the end of their first year. The practicum's purpose is to expose students to the practice of medicine and community health. The students have already learned basic history-taking and physical exam skills throughout their first year, as well as their basic sciences. In the practicum the students begin to use patients and their problems as a basis for further learning, concentrating on basic sciences, clinical sciences, psychosocial and preventive issues.

We are looking for physicians in the Philadelphia area and anywhere in the United States who will serve as preceptors for 12 hours a week for 6 weeks from April 26 to June 4, 2010. This is a great way to meet our current students and have a real impact on their learning and possibly their career choice.

If you are interested and want more information please call Natalie Myers in the PIL office, **215-991-8554** or email us at [Pamela.Duke@drexelmed.edu](mailto:Pamela.Duke@drexelmed.edu) or [Natalie.Myers@drexelmed.edu](mailto:Natalie.Myers@drexelmed.edu).

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## '60s

**Joel L. Schwartz, M.D., HU '65** presented a lecture entitled "The Stress Less Shrink" at The Quaker School in Horsham, Pa. Schwartz recently published a manual for parents on how to improve their child's sense of humor, called *Noses are Red*.

## '70s

**Marylou Buyse, M.D., WMC '70** was profiled in an article, "Marylou Buyse Brings Universal View to Healthcare," in the *Boston Herald*. Buyse is president and CEO of the Massachusetts Association of Health Plans and a primary care physician.

**Michael C. Robinson, M.D., HU '72** joined the medical staff of Saratoga Hospital in Saratoga Springs, N.Y. Robinson practices with Saratoga Emergency Physicians and previously was a physician at Glens Falls Hospital in Glens Falls, N.Y.

**Marlene R. Wolf, M.D., MCP '77** helped organize a benefit for the Lisa Boccard Breast Cancer Fund. Wolf, chair of the Department of Medicine Coral Springs Medical Center, had the idea to compile recipes to be published in the *Recipes for Life Cookbook* to raise money for the event.



Dr. Coyle

**Joseph P. Coyle, M.D., HU '78** has been named to Best Doctors in America 2009-2010 by Best Doctors, Inc. Coyle works at Southeast Anesthesiology

Consultants in Charlotte, N.C.

**Douglas Trostle, M.D., HU '78** was appointed to the active staff at St. Joseph's Hospital of Elmira, N.Y., in the Department of Surgery as a general surgery specialist.

Trostle is also affiliated with the Guthrie Clinic Sayre and Robert Packer Hospital, Sayre, Pa.

## '80s

**Daniel O. Billman, M.D., HU '80** joined the staff of St. Luke's Pediatric Associates. Billman is board certified in pediatrics and neonatal/perinatal medicine.

**Frank E. Mozdy, M.D., HU '82** was named chief medical officer for Summit Health Physician Services in Chambersburg, Pa. Mozdy will be responsible for the oversight of the physician services' quality and performance initiatives. He will continue part-time in his current role as a member of the Hospitalists of Franklin County.

**Richard Cassidy, M.D., HU '84** was named vice president and chief medical officer for Health Care Services at BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee in Chattanooga. Before joining the Tennessee plan, Cassidy was vice president of medical management for BlueCross BlueShield of Florida.

**Catherine Nicolaides, M.D., HU '84** was interviewed for the *Today Show* on September 24. Nicolaides was featured in a recently published book, "Saving Sammy" by Beth Allison Maloney, which detailed the author's frustration in finding the cause for her son's obsessive compulsive disorder and nervous tics. The author credited Nicolaides with diagnosing her son with PANDAS (pediatric autoimmune neuroattentive disorders associated with strep) and subsequently curing him.

**Michelle Andrews, M.D., HU '85** was named one of the Best Doctors in America 2009-2010. Andrews is a partner physician at Cincinnati Sports Medicine and Orthopedic Center, where she specializes in knee and shoulder ailments. She has also worked as a team physician for the Baltimore Orioles baseball team.

**KathyLee Santangelo, M.D., MCP '85** was named "Woman of the Year" by the *Oklahoma Journal Record*. Santangelo is a cardiothoracic surgeon at the Midwest Regional Medical Center in Midwest City, Okla.

**Robin K. Dhillon, M.D., HU '86** was recognized by Cambridge Who's Who for excelling in his field as a cardiothoracic surgeon. Now retired from practice, Dhillon formerly worked as a medical consultant for the Greater Cleveland Automobile Dealers Association.

**Beth B. Dupree, M.D., MCP '87** was named medical director of Holy Redeemer's breast health program. At Holy Redeemer, she led the health system's effort to gain national accreditation for the program. Dupree affiliated her practice with Holy Redeemer after her former oncology group, Comprehensive Breast Care Institute, closed in 2009.

**Daniel G. Hartman, M.D., MCP '88** medical director and CEO of Philmont Guidance Center, recently launched Tri-County TMS to offer transcranial magnetic stimulation for treatment-resistant depression. It is the first TMS center in the eastern Montgomery County area.

**Christopher T. Olivia, M.D., HU '88** President and CEO of West Penn Allegheny Health System, discussed healthcare in western Pennsylvania at the Sam and Irene Black School of Business at Penn State Erie, Behrend College on October 1 in a presentation entitled "An Era of Reform: Challenges and Opportunity."

## '90s

**Wandra K. Miles, M.D., MCP '91** was featured in an article, "For Seattle Cosmetic Surgery, Increased Emphasis on Surgeon Credentials," where she spoke out about the recent rise in unlicensed cosmetic surgery in the Seattle area.

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**Carol Milligan, Ph.D., MCP '92** was promoted from associate professor to professor at Wake Forest University School of Medicine.

**Glenn T. Ault, M.D., HU '93** has been appointed to the new position of associate dean for clinical administration at the Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California. Ault will represent the school in day-to-day operations with Los Angeles County+USC Medical Center. He currently serves as medical director of the operating rooms and as chief of service for the Division of Colorectal Surgery at LAC+USC.

**Steven I. Levin, M.D., HU '93** a cardiothoracic and endovascular surgeon, has been appointed to the staff of the Central Maine Medical Center. Levin is practicing in association with Central Maine Cardiovascular Surgery. Previously, he worked as director of cardiovascular and thoracic surgery in West Monroe, La.

**Alexis S. Lieberman, M.D., MCP '93** announced the opening of her new practice, Fairmount Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine, in Philadelphia. Lieberman has experience in many behavioral aspects of pediatrics, including treating ADHD, obesity, and adolescent issues.

**Paula Ann Radon, M.D., MCP '95** was listed as a 2009 "Top Doc" in *What's Up? Annapolis* magazine. Radon is co-founder of the Comprehensive Gynecology Center in Gambrills, Md.

**Gregory Cuculino, M.D., MCP '96** was elected to a two-year term as president of Taylor Hospital's medical and dental staff in Ridley Park, Pa. Cuculino is a six-year member of Taylor's medical staff and specializes in emergency medicine.

**Barbara A. Harris, M.D., MCP '96** opened a new practice, Mountain Shadow Family Medicine, in Kingman, Ariz. Her

new practice combines standard medical procedures with holistic principles.

**Binoy R. Jani, M.D., MCP '96** has started performing procedures at the Culpeper Surgery Center in Virginia. An ophthalmologist and medical director for Vista Eye Specialists, Jani provides advanced custom cataract surgery, corneal transplantation, refractive lens exchange, glaucoma laser surgery, and eye lid surgery among numerous other procedures.

**Charles Lewis Levy, M.D., HU '98** has published a novel set in Central America titled *El Volcán*. Levy is a neurological surgeon in Chesapeake, Va., but began his career as a Marine Corps intelligence officer specializing in Latin America and counterinsurgency operations.

## '00s

**Diana Hernandez, M.D., MCPHU '00** has joined Lancaster Rehabilitation Hospital in Lancaster, Pa. Hernandez most recently practiced at Valley Rehab Medical Group in Fresno, Calif.

**Eric Maur, M.D., MCPHU '01** joined Geisinger Medical Center's Emergency Department in Danville, Pa. Maur recently completed his residency at Geisinger Medical Center. He also completed a pediatrics residency at Tripler Army Medical Center in Honolulu.

**Brian Stewart Lyle, M.D., '02** has joined the Cardiovascular Institute of North Colorado. He most recently worked with the Rocky Mountain Cardiology group in Boulder as an invasive cardiologist. He was the chief cardiology fellow at Hartford Hospital in Hartford, Conn.

**Kimberley Sierra, M.D., M.S., MCPHU '02** joined Richmond Family Medicine in Rockingham, N.C. She earned her medical degree from Temple University School of Medicine at its Western Pennsylvania

Hospital clinical campus and completed her family practice residency at the Washington Hospital in Washington, Pa.

**Raymond R. Drabicki, M.D., '03** an orthopedic surgeon, joined the staff of Alle-Kiski Medical Center. Drabicki joined Greater Pittsburgh Orthopaedic Associates, with offices in Brackenridge and Pittsburgh, on August 31.

**Emily A. Peterson, M.D., '03** joined the physician group at Mount Nittany Medical Center in State College, Pa. A specialist in cosmetic and reconstructive surgery, Peterson is the first plastic surgeon employed at Mount Nittany.

**David Sachs, M.D., '03** an ophthalmologist with Ophthalmic Consultants of Long Island specializing in sutureless cataract surgery, LASIK, cornea transplant surgery, and comprehensive ophthalmology, will donate his time to Mission Cataract USA to perform free cataract surgery at the Island Eye Surgicenter for residents of Nassau, Suffolk and Queens, N.Y., who are not covered by medical insurance.

**Richard J. Glass, M.D., '04** a physician with New Georgia Family Healthcare and a member of the medical staff at Tanner Health System, successfully completed the certification exam from the American Board of Family Medicine.

**David Hobbs, Post-Bacc Certificate '06; M.S. '07** a medical student at the Michigan State University College of Human Medicine in Grand Rapids, was featured in an article in the *Grand Rapids Business Journal*. Hobbs has participated in six research papers, four of them accepted for publication and two pending, and he was one of six students in the United States to receive a Student Scholar Grant in 2008 from the American Society of Nephrology.

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## Former Residents and Fellows

**Charles M. Furr, M.D.; Cardiology Resident, MCP '76** has joined the medical staff at Elk Regional Health System of St. Marys, Pa. Furr is president of Medicor Associates, the cardiology group practice for Hamot Heart Institute of Erie, Pa.

**Ira D. Cheifetz, DDS; Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery Resident, HU '78** was named president of the board of trustees of the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons. He maintains a private practice with offices in Mercerville and Princeton Junction, N.J.

**Giuseppe Gioia, M.D.; Cardiology Fellow, Allegheny '96** an interventional radiologist, joined the staff at Shore Memorial Hospital in Galloway, N.J. Gioia received his medical degree from Padua University Medical School in Padua, Italy, and works in private practice in Galloway.

**Ali Khan, M.D.; Cardiology Fellow, HU '98** a cardiac specialist, has joined Aurora Health Center in Wisconsin. Khan has over 10 years of experience in invasive cardiac procedures, nuclear cardiology, and hospital-based cardiology practice.

**Jorge Mercado, M.D.; Critical Care/ Pulmonology Fellow, '06** has joined the staff at University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) Horizon in Greenville, Pa. Mercado earned his medical degree from the University of Buenos Aires School of Medicine and completed an internship at UPMC Presbyterian and UPMC Shadyside.

**Jasjot Bhullar, M.D.; Internal Medicine Resident, '07; Nephrology Fellow, '09** has joined Maine General Kidney Care at the Thayer Campus in Waterville, Maine. Bhullar is also a member of Maine General Medical Center's active medical staff.

## In Memoriam

**James R. Eynon, M.D., HU '38**  
*September 17*

**James Thomas Fox, Jr., M.D., MCP '90**  
*September 20*

**Baruch Frankel, M.D., DU '08**  
*August 20*

**S. Clifford Gilbert, M.D., HU '46**  
*June 27*

**Edwin H. McKnight, M.D., HU '56**  
*September 27*

**Rosalia Monai, M.D., WMC '49**  
*October 31*

**Hugh J. Mullin, Jr., M.D., HU '63**  
*November 10*

**Thomas H. Pierzchala, M.D., HU '78**  
*October 20*

**Donald H. Robinson, M.D., HU '45**  
*October 26*

**Robert Richard Strauss, Ph.D., HU '58**  
*August 20*

## Call for Nominations of Candidates for AOA Election

**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 *3 graduate trainees* after their first year of training, based on continued achievement and promise.

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

**Faculty:** A chapter may elect to membership *2 faculty members* each year from the faculty of the College of Medicine who have distinguished themselves in their professional careers and are

judged on the basis of achievement to be qualified. Such faculty members must hold an earned doctoral degree.

Submit all nominations to Marie Hartman via email at [mhartman@drexelmed.edu](mailto:mhartman@drexelmed.edu). Please include with your nomination a brief description of the nominee's achievements. In the case of faculty, curriculum vitae must be provided. The deadline for submitting nominations is January 15, 2010; nominations will not be accepted after this date.

### Note to Current Members of AOA

We are also in the process of updating our Delta Zeta Chapter membership list. If you are a new faculty member who is a member of AOA and would like to join the Delta Zeta Chapter, please contact Marie Hartman. In addition, if you are a current member and your email or mailing address has changed, please let us know so we can update our files. For more information about the Delta Zeta Chapter, upcoming elections or events, contact Dr. Allan Tunkel, AOA Councillor, at [atunkel@drexelmed.edu](mailto:atunkel@drexelmed.edu) or Marie Hartman in the Career Development Center, [mhartman@drexelmed.edu](mailto:mhartman@drexelmed.edu).



## Dr. Oaks Honored by City

Wilbur Oaks, M.D., HU '55, retired professor of medicine and former chair of the Department of Medicine at the College, was presented with an honorary resolution from the City of Philadelphia in recognition of his volunteer work with Saint John's Hospice, a shelter for homeless men in Center City. Councilman Frank Rizzo made the presentation at the beginning of the City Council meeting on October 22.

## Liver Specialists Address Chinese and Chinese American Community

Asian Americans, especially Chinese Americans, have the highest rates of hepatitis B infection among all ethnic groups in the United States, resulting in higher incidences of liver cancer compared with the general population. To reach this community, Drexel University College of Medicine and Hahnemann University Hospital organized a free seminar about the prevention and treatment of hepatitis B and treatment options for liver cancer.

"There are very effective prevention and treatment options for hepatitis B," said the program director, assistant professor of surgery Gary Xiao, M.D. "Screening and early diagnosis is the key in fighting this disease." Drs. David Sass, associate professor of medicine and medical director of the liver transplant center at Hahnemann, and Xiaoli Ma from Temple University, also made presentations, followed by a lively question-and-answer period. More than 100 people from the Chinese and Chinese American community participated in the program, held in mid-October.

"Liver cancer can develop early in hepatitis B patients even without fibrosis or cirrhosis," Xiao said. But, again there is hope. "Once patients develop cancer, there are now many options to treat it, such as resection and liver transplantation."

For more information contact the Hahnemann Liver Transplant Program at **215-762-3900**.

## Animal Program Wins AAALAC Accreditation, High Praise

The Council on Accreditation of the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animals has granted full accreditation to the laboratory animal care and use program, commending leaders and staff for maintaining an excellent program. A letter from the accreditation council president praised the well-informed University Laboratory Animal Resources staff, the excellent veterinary program, the "good and clearly effective" administrative

support for the program, and the "highly engaged and well constituted" Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee. "Especially noteworthy was the very collegial atmosphere among the staff, IACUC members, and the investigators in the program, as evidenced by the level of engagement of each individual and the general understanding of the value of all of the other participants to the program," the letter said.



Left to right, seated: Mary Victor, Janet Schulenberg, Luciana Mills (on chair arm), Emily Wisbar; Standing: Maria Peters-Hample, Carlton Reed, Dr. Richard Huneke, Andrew Nelson, Andrea McCurry, Christine Stinger, Charlene Glenn, Sean Daniels

## AHA Visiting Professorship Awarded to St. Christopher's

St. Christopher's Hospital for Children has received the American Heart Association Council on Cardiovascular Disease in the Young Visiting Professorship Award for 2009.

Harry Dietz, M.D., the Victor A. McKusick Professor of Genetics and Medicine at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and investigator at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, has been invited to visit St. Christopher's Hospital in early 2010 for two days of educational and academic activities. Shuping Ge, M.D., chief of cardiology at the hospital and an associate professor at the College of Medicine, will be the host.

Academic and educational activities are expected to include grand rounds, a mini-symposium in Philadelphia, visits to the Heart Center, medical genetics

and research laboratories, as well as one-on-one mentoring of trainees and junior clinical and research faculty interested in cardiovascular genetics investigation. If you are interested in being mentored by Dietz, please email [shuping.ge@tenethealth.com](mailto:shuping.ge@tenethealth.com).

## Drexelmed.edu Receives Website Grade of 96.1/100

Congratulations to the College of Medicine's website, [www.drexelmed.edu](http://www.drexelmed.edu), for receiving a website grade of 96.1/100! This grade shows that of the more than one million websites previously evaluated, the College of Medicine's site scores in the 96<sup>th</sup> percentile, in terms of its marketing effectiveness. The algorithm uses a proprietary blend of over 50 different variables, including search engine data, site structure, approximate traffic, site performance and more.

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### Med School Bands Battle for Charity

The Battle of the Med School Bands, held November 2 to raise funds for Physicians for Social Responsibility, drew top scientific and musical talent to World Café Live, including two bands from Drexel University College of Medicine. First up: The Novack Experience led by Dennis Novack, M.D., professor and associate dean for medical education, with Kevin Bernstein, Adam Calarese, Lance Hale, Victor Kim, and Jamen Kurtyka, all medical students; Ben Christakis, who was an IMS student when he joined the band; and Kamal Laroia, a research lab technician at Drexel. The professor “rocked out like Steven Tyler as his more demure band members backed him up with vocals, drums, keyboards and guitars,” said a posting on TheScientist.com blog. Music of another flavor was provided by The Delta Natural, whose five members include three Drexel medical students, Ben Parker, Steve Ryder, and Ben Kummer.



### Medical Humanities...continued

bodies to medical science and the value of this gift to their education,” says Peitzman, who teaches the course collaboratively with Rhonda L. Soricelli, M.D., adjunct assistant professor, Family Medicine; David H. Flood, Ph.D., professor, Health Sciences; Florence Gelo, D.Min., NCPsYA, associate professor, Family Medicine; Dennis DePace, Ph.D., associate professor, Anatomy; and Ted Fallon, M.D., psychiatrist and physician-writer. “They hear about grave robbers who stealthily delivered cadavers to the back doors of medical schools before a routine way of obtaining cadavers existed. They learn about the emergence of dissection in the late 18th century as a method for understanding disease and developing treatments. They discover how people in various cultures view death and dying, dead bodies and dissection. They study how artists and writers have interpreted it in their work.”

Cutting Cold Flesh also helps students learn to find a balance between becoming too emotionally involved or too detached during the dissection process. “In the beginning, students are often afraid of hurting the cadaver,” notes Soricelli. “One of our goals is to help them find a healthy level of detachment while still valuing the individuals who donated their bodies. The ability to find this balance can carry over to their future relationships with patients.”

Last year, a creative assignment was added to the course in which students reflect on their own experience with dissection by creating a poem, essay or art work. “The quality of work and depth of reflection was amazing,” says Soricelli. One first-year student, Michelle Paff, drew a portrait of her cadaver that was featured on the cover of *Academic Medicine*. (See page 1.)

#### Learning from the Arts

Evidence in the literature suggests that studying the medical humanities leads to more empathic physicians who are able to

function more thoughtfully and cope more effectively in life and in their profession, according to Soricelli, who teaches “Medicine and Literature.”

“Literature has many inherent subtleties and ambiguities, and information is often presented in fragments, much like a patient providing history to the physician,” notes Soricelli. “Through these studies, students gain a greater appreciation for the uniqueness of every patient’s illness experience, as well as their own feelings about it. This is important to their understanding and ability to provide good care.”

Students also learn about empathy, death and dying by studying the visual arts with Gelo. (See *NewsPager*, December 2008, for more on Gelo’s work.)

Students who wish to develop special expertise in this area can elect to enter the Medical Humanities Scholars certificate program. Working with a faculty mentor, candidates design a four-year, individualized course of study, which includes three elective courses, six humanities grand rounds or special events, and an independent study project. The Scholars program currently has 83 candidates for 2010 through 2013.

The Medical Humanities Program continues to evolve each year, and student feedback has been very positive, according to Rosenzweig. “Students are learning that they really need to step outside the sciences in order to make sense of their lives as physicians, connect with their patients and care for people,” he says.

All Medical Humanities Program offerings are also open to faculty and staff. For more information, visit <http://webcampus.drexelmed.edu/MedHumanities/>



**Dr. Curcillo**

The work of **Paul Curcillo, M.D.**, associate professor and vice chair, Department of Surgery, and **Stephanie King, M.D.**, associate professor, Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology, was the subject of the cover story in the October 2009 issue of *Outpatient Surgery Magazine*.



**Dr. King**



**Dr. Long**

**Sarah S. Long, M.D.**, professor of pediatrics, has received the 2009 Award for Lifetime Contribution to Infectious Diseases Education from the American Academy of Pediatrics. This award recognizes a member who has devoted efforts to the postgraduate education of AAP member physicians. Long is chief of infectious diseases at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children. She has served as chair of the first sub-board of pediatric infectious diseases of the American Board of Pediatrics (ABP), chair of the board of directors of the ABP, president of the

of infectious diseases at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children. She has served as chair of the first sub-board of pediatric infectious diseases of the American Board of Pediatrics (ABP), chair of the board of directors of the ABP, president of the

Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society and president of the medical staff at St. Christopher's. She is the founding chief editor of *Principles and Practice of Pediatric Infectious Disease*, and is an associate editor of *The Journal of Pediatrics* and the *Red Book*.



**Dr. Riviello**

**Ralph J. Riviello, M.D., M.S., FACEP**, associate professor, Department of Emergency Medicine, was honored by Women Organized Against Rape/Philadelphia Rape Crisis Center with a Bridge to Courage Award for his work against sexual violence in the city of Philadelphia. Riviello was recognized because of his efforts both in direct patient care, for running one of the city's rape crisis centers, and in policy development for the city.

The Office of Communications & Marketing received a platinum award for the 10-year anniversary book, *A Decade of Opportunity and Innovation Built on 160 Years of Progress*, and a gold award for the *NewsPager* from MarCom Awards. MarCom Awards is an international creative competition that recognizes outstanding achievement by members of the Association of Marketing and Communication Professionals.



## Compliance Corner: Gifts for a New Year



**Edward G. Longazel**  
Chief Compliance  
& Privacy Officer

The national economy has been trudging along and the environment surrounding the healthcare reform debate is at once complex, intriguing and challenging. Perhaps to finish the holiday season we could each consider giving a few simple gifts to one another and our patients. Cost-free gifts that take seconds and not dollars.

Random acts of kindness driven by respect and integrity coupled with thoughtfulness that could become much more than New Year's resolutions but rather habits. Habits that become strengthened elements of our already wonderful culture at Drexel University College of Medicine. Best wishes for a healthy and happy 2010!

Simple gifts to give...

- Respect for each patient's privacy as we accomplish the necessary administrative and clinical tasks associated with providing care.

- Respect for the privacy of co-workers and family members who entrust their care in time of need to other members of the College of Medicine family.
- Integrity in the conduct of our day-to-day relationships with patients, insurers, and co-workers while rendering and seeking reimbursement for care expertly provided and fully documented to enable coordination of care while providing educational value.
- Kindness to patients and co-workers alike struggling with burdens we note and can easily assist with by taking a moment to help, coach, direct, advise, and share a smile to make it a better day.
- Rededication to clinical quality, patient satisfaction, and student education in each keystroke, page view, phone call, and clinical page faced during the busy day.
- Emails that serve to inform, enlighten and empower while building collaborative and supportive teams.

Questions? Compliance or privacy training requests: 215-255-7819

Confidential compliance hotlines: Call toll-free 866-936-1010; or visit [www.drexelmed.edu/ComplianceHotline](http://www.drexelmed.edu/ComplianceHotline)

Suite 11484, 1601 Cherry Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19102

## Bulletins:

### Pediatric AIDS Benefit Concert – Best Show in Town!

Drexel Medicine's premier student-run philanthropic event, the Pediatric AIDS Benefit Concert, takes place Saturday evening, February 13, in the Grand Court, Main Building, 32nd and Chestnut Streets on Drexel University's main campus. This is the 17th year for the event, which has over the years raised more than \$300,000 for the Pediatric AIDS program at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children.

The largest of its kind in the tri-state area, the AIDS program at St. Christopher's Hospital provides comprehensive care, including social services, to children infected with HIV and their families. The money raised by the PABC 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.

A ticket for the event includes unlimited food and drink, admission to the concert, and the opportunity to bid on fabulous items during the evening at a silent auction. So that all donations and ticket sales can go to their cause, the students solicit donations of food and beverages from local businesses and hold a fall fundraiser to cover other costs of the concert.

The entertainment is provided by Drexel University College of Medicine students and faculty members. Don't mistake this for your basic open mic/amateur night, however. The bands, dance groups, vocalists, instrumentalists, and other talent acts audition in November for a chance to play in the concert. In fact, the caliber of the performers is so impressive, you might wonder why they're so keen on their day jobs.

Ticket information will be available at <http://sga.drexelmed.edu/studentgroups/PABC>. Or email [PABC2010@gmail.com](mailto:PABC2010@gmail.com) for more information.

## Calendar:

2010

January	<i>Cervical Health Awareness Month</i>
February	<i>American Heart Month</i>
Feb 13	<b>Pediatric AIDS Benefit Concert</b> Talent by Drexel Medicine students and faculty Main Building, University City Main Campus Contact: Shay Myers, 215-991-8219 or <a href="mailto:smyers@drexelmed.edu">smyers@drexelmed.edu</a>
March	<i>National Nutrition Month</i>
April	<i>National Autism Awareness Month</i>
Apr 19	<b>Woman One</b> The Rittenhouse, 5:30 p.m. program, reception following Contact: <a href="mailto:iwhl@drexelmed.edu">iwhl@drexelmed.edu</a> or 215-991-0267
Apr 27	<b>Marion Spencer Fay Award/Lecture &amp; Reception</b> Queen Lane Campus, 4 p.m. – 6:15 p.m. Contact: <a href="mailto:jbarber@drexelmed.edu">jbarber@drexelmed.edu</a> or 215-991-8194
Apr 30-May 1	<b>Alumni Weekend</b>
May	<i>Hepatitis Awareness Month</i>
May 19-21	<b>50-Year Reunion</b>
May 21	<b>Commencement</b>
June	
Jun 4	<b>Fourth National Forum on Women's Issues in Gastroenterology and Hepatology</b> The Ritz-Carlton Contact: Jennifer Sumter, 215-762-2581
Jun 12	<b>Drexel University Commencement</b>