

NEWSPAGER

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

Avian Influenza Elicits Plans, Research, Just-in-Case Scenarios

December 2005

Newsletter Volume 6, No. 9

Judging by the headlines, one might think “the next pandemic” was just around the corner. The stories probe the odds that the strain of avian influenza that has killed more than 65 people in Asia since 2003 could be the virus prognosticators have been waiting for. However, a pandemic would require human-to-human transmission of the virus, and to date, all but one or two of 132 documented human cases were infected directly by birds.

Ask a physician if a human-to-human version is coming and the usual answer is “We don’t know.” Is the media story overblown? “I don’t think ordinary people should be concerned or altering their lives,” says DUCOM infectious disease specialist Dr. Judith O’Donnell, “but doctors and health officials are concerned, as they should be.”



Dr. Katsikis

That may be especially true for those on the frontlines of immunology, like Dr. Peter Katsikis, Professor of Microbiology and Immunology. The new awareness may be responsible for kicking loose a Bush administration plan with notable funding for vaccine research and development, Dr. Katsikis suggests. “Two years ago we were saying ‘This is happening,’ and the media were ignoring it,” he says.

The federal plan to put billions into vaccines is exciting, but much depends on how the money is spent. Among other initiatives, the proposal would earmark \$1.2 billion for the government to buy vaccine against the H5N1 strain of avian influenza that is currently active in Asia.

Clinical trials of one vaccine began in April under the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease, which had contracted with two companies to come up with vaccines based on an H5N1 seed strain developed at St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital in Memphis.

Would a vaccine based on the current H5N1 offer protection from a pandemic strain? Not likely, says Dr. O’Donnell. “In order for there to be a pandemic in humans, the current H5N1 avian influenza strain would have to mutate to be capable of human-to-human transmission, a trait it currently does not exhibit,” she explains. “Through this mutation process, the virus would reassort itself and likely be different enough from the original H5N1 strain in such a way that a vaccine against the original strain might be completely ineffective, or only partially protective.”

Once a distinct strain emerges, it would take about six months with current technology to develop a matching vaccine, Dr. Katsikis says. But if a pandemic begins in Southeast Asia, the virus will be here within a month. Dr. O’Donnell adds that while it is safe to assume that quarantines of some kind will quickly be put into place, there is always a time lag between people having left the infected area and when the quarantine is begun.

New vaccine technologies are the cornerstone of the Bush plan. Very little has been done in vaccine development – killed virus vaccines have been around for decades – and what has been developed has been relatively low-tech.

A radical new vaccine strategy is under development by Dr. Katsikis in collaboration with Elisabeth Papazoglou and Margaret Wheatley of the Drexel University School of Biomedical Engineering. The grant they recently submitted to the National Institutes of Health – “Encapsulated Live Influenza Virus Vaccine Development” – proposes to encapsulate live influenza virus into nanotubes in the form of a gel so that the vaccine could safely be administered under the skin. It has been shown in mice that a virus that would kill if inhaled can be delivered under the skin in this “package” at 1,000 times the concentration without incident.

Pediatric AIDS Benefit Concert February 11. See page 9.

Whereas a killed vaccine produces antibodies, Dr. Katsikis and colleagues are looking for a vaccine that in addition to antibodies, induces a CD8 T cell response – a T cell that recognizes infected cells and kills them. Such a vaccine might not prevent everyone from contracting the disease but would strikingly alter morbidity and mortality rates.

The administration’s plan includes the development of “a surge capacity ... to manufacture enough [vaccine] to immunize every American.” New technologies to speed production are part of the equation. “Depending on how aggressive the plan is, it may someday be possible to have 300 million doses manufactured,” Dr. O’Donnell says, “but you have to actually deliver that vaccine to make the program effective. Tremendous healthcare delivery barriers would have to be eliminated.”

Prevention is not the name of the game at National Defense University (NDU) in Washington, D.C. There, sometime in early 2006, U.S. policymakers will gather to role-play themselves in the midst of a

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

Education Worthy of National Recognition

In the four months since I took on the leadership of Drexel University College of Medicine, it has been easy to identify the strengths of our college – the various academic programs and superb researchers, educators, clinicians and staff who contribute to the success of our missions. When outside organizations are recognizing our programs in word and

action, it is a pleasure for me to share this information with our University community.

For instance, the Liaison Committee on Medical Education awarded continued accreditation of our medical education program for an eight-year term – the maximum period possible before the next full survey. The committee's letter to the College noted many of our institutional strengths, including the following:

- The faculty has an exceptional concentration of committed, student-centered educators who are unequivocally dedicated to quality education and to the welfare of the students.
- Students and faculty throughout the college and its affiliates identify Student Affairs and the academic counseling system as exceptional.
- During the last two years, the College of Medicine has developed a strong, collaborative growth in research that has produced a most competitive and exciting culture of scholarship, innovation, and opportunity.

- The department chairs and institute leaders are an effective team who have strategically grown research, mentored young faculty, supported education and created a collegial environment.

The Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education held their review of DUCOM's CME programs in November. Cynthia Johnson, our Assistant Dean for CME, led a superb presentation to the ACCME. The reviewers were clearly impressed with the number and scope of activities the CME office coordinates and manages.

On November 5, the Society for Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine (SELAM) Award for Excellence was presented to Page S. Morahan, Ph.D., Founding Director of the ELAM Program, in recognition of her outstanding contributions to women's advancement over the decade since ELAM's beginning.

Earlier this quarter, Dr. Jennifer Culhane, Associate Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, was named co-principal investigator of a grant to develop one of the first Vanguard Centers for the National Children's Study. Funded by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, the study will take the most detailed look ever at how the environment influences human health and development.

These examples highlight, but do not exhaust, the good news spread daily about the academic programs at DUCOM. I encourage our faculty, staff, students, alumni and academic partners to explore the various offerings and strengths to be found in each of our departments and campuses. During my tenure here at Drexel, I intend to work with you to harness these strengths for continued development and greater national prominence.

Contact: 215-762-3500

In Memoriam: Dr. Lila Stein Kroser

Lila Stein Kroser, M.D., WMC '57, passed away November 9 after a brief illness. She would have been 73 on November 24.

Dr. Kroser was a Clinical Assistant Professor of Family Medicine with the College of Medicine, a position she had held since 1985. She had just been installed in October as President of the Pennsylvania Medical Society, having previously served as President of the Philadelphia County Medical Society, the Pennsylvania Academy of Family Physicians and the Medical Women's International Association, a nongovernmental branch of the United Nations. Dr. Kroser was one of few physicians to have held local, state, national and international presidencies in organized medicine, according to the National Library of Medicine, which selected her as one of 340 extraordinary women for its exhibit "Changing the Face of Medicine" (<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/changingthefaceofmedicine>).

A past president of the Alumni Association, Dr. Kroser continued until her death serving as a mentor and adviser for medical students throughout the state and was active

with numerous community healthcare projects.

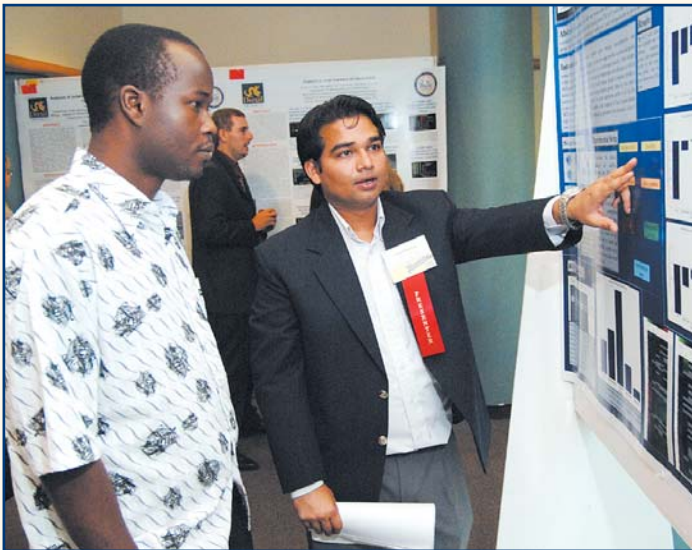
Dr. Kroser practiced family medicine with her husband, Dr. Albert Kroser, until their recent retirement. The couple were married for more than 49 years and had three children: Joyann Kroser, M.D., MCP '90; Jonathan Kroser, M.D., MCP '95; and Marla J. Kroser, Esq.



Dr. Kroser

To honor Dr. Kroser's memory, the College is creating the Lila Stein Kroser, M.D., WMC '57 Memorial Fund. Contributions may be made payable to Drexel University College of Medicine and sent to: PHEC Gifts, P.O. Box 8235, Philadelphia, PA 19101-9685. Please write 6K3 in the memo line. For further information, please contact Laura Valenti at 215-895-6434 or via e-mail at valenti@drexel.edu.

Young Drexel Med Scientists Showcase Their Work



Sumit Kumar, a first-year graduate student in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology, discusses his research with classmate James Alaro at Discovery Day.

More than 190 posters lined the hallways of the Queen Lane Campus on Discovery Day, October 5, the annual celebration of research at Drexel University College of Medicine. DUCOM undergraduate, graduate and medical students, clinicians and postdoctoral fellows were joined by high school and undergraduate students from local schools, and guest presenters from Columbia University, McGill, Ursinus College, and Yale. A select group of DUCOM graduate students and fellows also made platform presentations.

“Discovery is the high point of the year for the research community at the College of Medicine,” says Dr. Barry Waterhouse, Associate Dean for Biomedical Graduate, Postdoctoral and Professional Studies. “For one day of the year, technicians, students, fellows and faculty can take a break from their normal routines and focus their attention on the recent accomplishments and future plans of COM scientists.”

Alzheimer’s disease was the focus of the Walter Rubin Memorial Lecture, given by Kenneth S. Kosik, M.D., MCP ’76,

the Harriman Professor of the Neuroscience Research Institute at the University of California, Santa Barbara. William R. Jacobs, Ph.D., Professor, Howard Hughes Medical Institute and Albert Einstein College, delivered the Joseph R. DiPalma lecture, speaking about drug development for tuberculosis.

The day concluded with the award ceremony and dinner in the Hyatt Regency Philadelphia at Penn’s Landing. A total of 24 awards were presented to students and faculty, with top honors going to Megan Wright, a fourth-year neuroscience graduate student, who received first-place recognition for her platform presentation on neuromuscular repair.



Her platform presentation on neuromuscular repair won first place for fourth-year graduate student Megan Wright. Associate Professor Dr. James Burns presents the award.

Gianluca Gallo, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Neurobiology and Anatomy; John Harvey, Ph.D., Professor, Pharmacology and Physiology; and Terry Heiman-Patterson, M.D., Professor of Neurology were also recognized for their achievements in basic and clinical research.

For a complete list of award winners and information on how you can become involved in Discovery 2006, visit www.drexelmed.edu/biograd/discovery2005.

DUCOM Residents Stand Out at Meeting

The Pennsylvania College of Internal Medicine held their annual Internal Medicine Residents Meeting on October 25, 2005, at Lankenau Hospital. Drexel University College of Medicine residents who participated in the research poster competition included Veena Devarakonda, M.D., and Raghunandan Dudda Subramanya, M.D., both third-year internal medicine residents, and My Padmalingam, M.D., and Nam Tran, M.D., both first-year internal medicine residents. Dr. Subramanya won second place for his presentation on “Gene Expression Profiling Defines Disease Specific Signatures in Alopecia Areata.”

In addition to the poster competition, a local Medical Jeopardy Tournament was held for all of the area internal medicine

programs. The College of Medicine team led in all three rounds, but lost by a slim margin in Final Jeopardy.



The Jeopardy Team: (l-r) Praveen Mannam, M.D., Chetan Naik, M.D., Adarsh Bhimraj, M.D., and Archana Gowda, M.D.



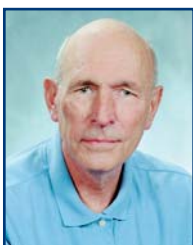
Dr. Greenberg

Michael I. Greenberg, M.D., MPH, Professor of Emergency Medicine at DUCOM and Professor of Public Health at Drexel University School of Public Health, is the Editor-in-Chief of two books just released by McGraw Hill Medical Publishers: *Occupational and Environmental Medicine Review* and *Medical Toxicology Review*.



Dr. Lippa

Carol F. Lippa, M.D., Professor of Neurology, Director of the Memory Disorders Center, co-authored "Diagnosis and Management of Dementia with Lewy Bodies. Third Report of the DLB Consortium," which appeared in the November issue of the journal *Neurology*.



Dr. Harvey

John Harvey, Ph.D., Professor of Pharmacology & Physiology, has been invited to give the Irvine Page Lecture at the Serotonin Club satellite meeting of the International Union of Pharmacology Congress in Sapporo, Japan, in June 2006. The congress is held every four years, and the speaker for the Page Lecture is selected based on significant and sustained contributions to the field.



Dr. Schulman

Edward S. Schulman, M.D., Professor of Medicine, Director of the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, delivered a featured plenary lecture entitled "The Role of Mast Cells in Innate Immunity" to the American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology at the annual scientific meeting in Anaheim, Calif.



Dr. Hong

Eugene Hong, M.D., CAQSM, Interim Chair and Associate Professor, Department of Family Community and Preventive Medicine, and Chief, Division of Sports Medicine, and **Niranda Mahamitra**, second-year family medicine resident, co-authored an article entitled "Medical Screening of the Athlete: How Does Asthma Fit In?" published in *Clinical Reviews in Allergy & Immunology*.



Dr. Sherif

Katherine Sherif, M.D., Assistant Professor, Director of the Center for Women's Health, recently presented a lecture entitled "New Insights into Polycystic Ovary Syndrome" to the NIH Intramural Program on Research on Women's Health at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Md.

Dr. Hong was also the moderator for the clinical symposium "The Weekend Warrior" at the annual meeting of the Mid Atlantic Chapter of the American College of Sports Medicine in Harrisburg, Pa., November 11–12.

Ronald L. Kamm, M.D., Assistant Clinical Professor of Psychiatry, published an article entitled "Interviewing Principals for the Psychiatrically Aware Sports Medicine Physician" that appeared in the October 2005 issue of *Clinics in Sports Medicine*.



Dr. Kuzma

Mary Ann Kuzma, M.D., presented an abstract entitled "Traditional Versus Acoustic Training in Cardiac Auscultation: Outcomes at 9 Months" at the plenary session of the Clerkship Directors in Internal Medicine Annual Meeting in Portland, Ore., on October 21, 2005.

Gerald Soslau, Ph.D., Professor of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, and Associate Dean for Premedical Education, co-authored an article entitled "Comparison of Sea Turtle Thrombocyte Aggregation to Human Platelet Aggregation in Whole Blood" that appeared in *Comparative Biochemistry and Physiology*, Part B, Vol. 142, 2005.



Dr. Tunkel

Allan R. Tunkel, M.D., Ph.D., Professor of Medicine and Senior Associate Dean for Academic Campuses, gave a presentation entitled "Encephalitis Practice Guidelines" at the national meeting of the Infectious Diseases Society of America in San Francisco on October 8, 2005.

Abington Memorial Hospital: Patient Safety and High-Touch Care

This is the first in a series of articles to keep you informed about Drexel University College of Medicine's clinical academic campuses.

If there's one thing that Abington Memorial Hospital Chief of Staff John J. Kelly, M.D., wants Drexel medical students, residents and fellows to learn at Abington, it is this: To succeed as a physician, you must have altruism, knowledge, skill and a clear understanding of your duty to the patient.

"These four pillars are the foundation of the successful practice of medicine at Abington Memorial Hospital," says Dr. Kelly, "and they will serve any physician well."

Since Drexel University College of Medicine's affiliation with Abington began in July 2004, the two institutions have worked together to teach these principles and, in the process, have discovered many rewards in their partnership.

"The addition of Abington as a teaching site provides our students and residents with a diversity of suburban and city hospital experiences," says Allan Tunkel, M.D., Ph.D., Senior Associate Dean for Academic Campuses and Professor of Medicine at the College. "Learning how to interact with patients from diverse backgrounds is critical to becoming a skilled clinician. Abington is absolutely committed to helping us build a world-class educational program at every level."



The Asplundh Atrium in the new pavilion

With a teaching tradition since its founding in 1913, Abington Memorial Hospital has embraced Drexel learners, which include 10 third- and fourth-year medical students and 43 residents and fellows in internal medicine, surgery, orthopedics, radiation oncology, cardiology, gastroenterology, rheumatology, infectious disease and cardiac electrophysiology.

In addition, about 100 first- and second-year students go to Abington twice weekly to learn clinical skills and physical diagnosis from College of Medicine faculty.

Drexel residents are fulfilling Abington's need for more house staff as the hospital grows. "In our partnership with Drexel, we've found a real synergy in staffing for the future," notes Dr. Kelly. "Already we have recruited some of the Drexel fellows into full-time positions in our practices."



Abington's new Lenfest Pavilion

Firmly committed to its status as the largest independent community hospital in the Delaware Valley, Abington continues to grow. The hospital's 650-plus physicians and 5,000 employees handle more than 34,000 admissions annually. That includes almost 5,000 births, distinguishing Abington as first in the Delaware Valley and second in Pennsylvania for annual births. Abington has the only accredited trauma center in Montgomery County and the single busiest hospital ER in the Delaware Valley with 75,000 visits annually.

In October 2005, Abington opened the new 360,000-square-foot six-story Lenfest Pavilion, which will ultimately bring the number of beds to about 600, once other hospital renovations are completed. The hospital's new facilities include 8,250 square feet of teaching and conference facilities and eight new operating rooms with state-of-the-art technology, bringing the total number of ORs to 23.

Being a teaching community hospital differentiates Abington both in form and substance, according to Dr. Kelly. "Abington attracts stronger clinicians because they want to be engaged in education, and education in turn makes stronger clinicians," he reflects. "The process of knowledge translation occurs faster at a teaching hospital, and as a result, we deliver better, more current care."

The recipient of the American Hospital Quest for Quality Prize, among numerous other national quality awards, Abington emphasizes patient safety to students and residents as well as staff. "The students who pass through our hospital will understand that patient safety is a defining foundation of quality," says Dr. Kelly. "We teach them that the complexity of modern healthcare requires a collaborative team approach. We emphasize that respectful interactions are absolutely essential to a safe environment. The first priority is the patient's safety, and every team member has a voice in that process. I'm thrilled when a third-year medical student questions me!" he adds.

At Abington, students and residents also learn the importance of high-touch care. "We must never lose sight of the fact that the purpose of our professional lives is to relieve suffering," says Dr. Kelly. "The relief of suffering isn't the effective treatment of illness and injury alone; it's also the ability to hold someone's hand when their life is passing away and there's nothing more medically that we can do. The ability to put that human face on medicine and be patient centered is critical, especially in today's production-oriented healthcare environment."



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

'20s

Wilson A. Foust, M.D., HU '29, was honored as the oldest living member of the Lancaster City and County Medical Society in Lancaster, Pa. The Society presented Dr. Foust with a Centenary Award, which recognized him for 100 years of "healthful living."

'50s

Doris G. Bartuska, M.D., WMC '54, was one of five physicians honored for exemplary leadership and service to the healthcare professions, communities and university by Wilkes University. Dr. Bartuska is a 1949 graduate of Wilkes.

Lila Stein Kroser, M.D., WMC '57, see page 2.

'60s

S. Thomas Westerman, M.D., HU '60, Clinical Associate Professor of Otolaryngology, Drexel University College of Medicine, recently gave a course entitled "Objective Approach to Subjective Testing of Taste and Smell" at the American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery Annual Convention in Los Angeles in September.

Eleanor M. Travers, M.D., WMC '66, is the new Director of the Bucks County Health Department, located in Doylestown, Pa. She was previously the Public Health Science Bureau Chief of the Connecticut Department of Health.

'70s

Thomas Kim, M.D., HU '70, has been appointed Chief Medical Officer of Family Healthcare Network in Visalia, Calif. This is a newly created position to help improve clinical and administrative operations for the network.

Mary A. Simmonds, M.D., MCP '75, an oncologist, received an honorary degree from Smith College at the school's graduation in April. She is a 1971 graduate of Smith. Dr. Simmonds is the first woman to become President of the American Cancer Society. A prominent breast cancer specialist, she has made major contributions in the research of pain relief.

Michael J. Berendt, Ph.D., HU '77, has been named Managing Director of Research Corporation Technologies' newly established regional office in Boston. The Tucson-based technology investment and management company provides early-stage venture funding for promising biomedical companies and technologies.

Mitchell Schwartz, M.D., HU '77, has joined Topnotch Resort and Spa in Stowe, Vt., directing a cosmetic treatment facility. Dr. Schwartz practices dermatology in South Burlington, Vt., and is on the medical staff at the Fletcher Allen Hospital at the University of Vermont.

Michael J. Cavanaugh, MCM, HU '78, was appointed Vice President of Sales, Marketing and Business Development at Laureate Pharma, Inc., in Princeton, N.J. The company supports the development and commercialization of pharmaceutical products for pharmaceutical and biopharmaceutical companies.

Steven Bergmann, M.D., HU '78, has become Chief of Cardiology at the Beth Israel Medical Center in New York. After leaving Hahnemann, Dr. Bergmann was at Washington University for 19 years, and then at the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University, where he held an endowed chair and was Director of Nuclear Cardiology.

'80s

Katherine Gallagher, M.D., HU '82, has joined the Dillsburg Family Health Center in Dillsburg, Pa., which is part of the Holy Spirit Health System. Dr. Gallagher specializes in family medicine.

Clifford A. Hudis, M.D., MCP '83, has joined the Editorial Board of *Oncology Net Guide*. Dr. Hudis is Chief of the Breast Cancer Medicine Service at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York City.

Karen Backall, MPT, HU '89, joined the staff of Body Balance for Performance, Golf Fitness and Physical Therapy in Pinehurst, N.C. For the last five years, she has been specializing in outpatient orthopedics and initiating a women's health program for Cape Fear Valley Health Care Systems.

Julianne O'Boyle, M.D., HU '89, a neurologist, has joined Wayne Memorial's Community Health Concern in Honesdale, Pa. She sees patients with conditions affecting the central nervous system and muscles, including headaches, stroke, seizures, multiple sclerosis and Parkinson's disease.

'90s

Ryan Bower, M.D., HU '98, has begun seeing patients at the Elkland Laurel Health Center in Elkland, Pa. Dr. Bower is a family physician. He completed his family practice residency at the University of Wyoming in Casper.

Timothy J. Germain, M.D., HU '98, has joined the medical staff of Plastic Surgery Associates of Lynchburg, Va. Dr. Germain received his training in general surgery at the Lahey Clinic in Boston, then completed a fellowship in plastic and reconstructive surgery, with training at the Lahey Clinic, Harvard/Brigham and Women's Hospital, and Children's Hospital of Boston. He recently completed a fellowship in aesthetic surgery and breast reconstruction at Charlotte Plastic Surgery.

'00s

Brian A. Cocca, Ph.D., MCPHU '02, was one of 50 people recognized by the Greater Delaware Valley Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society for their outstanding contributions in the region. The National MS Society honors area leaders through the MS Leadership Class Program. The individuals who participate in the program help to raise funds for MS. Dr. Cocca is an attorney with Woodcock, Washburn, LLP.

Navy Lt. David L. Black, M.D., COM '05, reported for duty at the Naval Hospital in Jacksonville, Fla.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



We Asked ... You Said ...

And we're listening. We in Alumni Relations want to develop programs, events, and activities that you and your family and friends would enjoy – and attend. A survey inserted in the NewsPager and posted online has been collecting your preferences over the past several months, and now the results are in. Please contact Patty Comey at **215-895-0983** or **pcomey@drexelmed.edu** if you have any questions.

Surveys completed online 35

Surveys completed by hand 122

Would you like to see other classmates or graduates more often?

Yes 116 No 24

Do you attend meetings or other events of any other professional organization?

Yes 111 No 37

If you attend these events, why?

CME 75
Professional Networking 13
Social Networking 0
Other 15

Do you feel the Alumni Association should host events?

Yes 116 No 16

If yes, what types of alumni activities would you attend?

Programs Offering CME Credit 58
Family Activities 16
Group Tickets to Cultural Events 28
Lecture Series 26
Specialty Annual Meeting Receptions 36
Summer Residence Receptions (NJ) 11
Student/Alumni Receptions 44
Group Tickets to Seasonal Sporting Events 18
Winter Residence Receptions 13

Are you interested in attending Alumni Weekend activities that include all the alumnae and alumni from Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania, MCP and Hahnemann University?

Yes 74 No 63

Have you ever attended a reunion?

Yes 79 No 67

What types of Alumni Weekend activities would you like to attend?

Program/Department Tours/Updates 70
Programs Offering CME Credits 49
Citywide Tours 16
Class Dinners 89
Campus Tours 31
Family Activities 8
Student/Alumni Receptions 34
Special Receptions 36
Dinner Dance 17
Group Tickets to Seasonal Sporting Events 19
Group Tickets to Cultural Events 33

How often would you attend these events?

Every Year 15
Every Other Year 22
Every Three Years 9
Every Five Years 62
Every Ten Years 16

How much time would you spend attending Alumni Weekend activities?

One Full Day 39
Two Days With One Overnight 52
A Full Weekend 32

The 50 Year Class currently participates in Graduation Weekend in May, a College of Medicine celebration only. Would you like to see this tradition continued?

Yes 114 No 10

Or would you like to have the 50-Year Class reunion moved to Alumni Weekend, forgoing the Commencement Activities?

Yes 14 No 108

Do you support the efforts of the College of Medicine to raise monies that are directed exclusively to the support of the medical school?

Yes 114 No 2

Alumni Relations Office: **215-895-0983**. Send alumni notes to Patty Comey at **pcomey@drexelmed.edu** or mail to: College of Medicine Office of Alumni Relations, Paul Peck Alumni Center 60-2, 3141, Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104
Website: <http://www.drexelmed.edu/med/ia/alumni/>



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Dear Alumni:

Thank you to the many graduates who have already registered for the alumni-student E-Mentoring Program. As of today, 117 alumni have registered. The testing phase was so successful that we had to limit the number of students participating, and I would like once again to invite you to join in this rewarding program.

The E-Mentoring Program connects students and alumni through e-mail. It provides a way for students to correspond with alumni about career issues, shadowing experiences, and life as scientists and physicians. Please consider supporting today's students by offering the benefit of your wisdom and experience.

If you are interested, please complete the online registration form found at <http://webcampus.med.drexel.edu/emedicalmentoring>. Any questions you may have can be directed to Patty Comey in the Alumni Office at pcomey@drexelmed.edu or 215-895-0983, or Marie Hartman in Student Affairs at mhartman@drexelmed.edu or 215-991-8219.

Thank you for your consideration.

Lauren Staples
Medical Student, Class of 2007

Alums at Discovery Day



Local alumni of Biomedical Graduate Studies were invited to participate as judges at Discovery Day, the annual research day of the College of Medicine. Alumni who attended include (l-r) Donna Russo, Ph.D., HU '89; Evelyn Swain, Ph.D., DUCOM '03; Mary Coté, M.D., WMC '59, President of the Alumni Association; James Burnes Jr., Ph.D., HU '89; Lydia Macht Parke, M.S., HU '80; and Doris Bartuska, M.D., WMC '54.

Marion Spencer Fay Award



Dr. Weeks

Cited for her breakthrough research in "the analysis of outcomes in oncology," Jane Weeks, M.D., M.Sc., of Harvard's Dana-Farber Cancer Institute has won the 2005 Marion Spencer Fay Award, which honors women for exceptional achievement in medicine and science. The award named for a former Dean and President of Woman's Medical College was

originated by the National Board for Women in Medicine and is now administered by the Institute for Women's Health and Leadership at Drexel University College of Medicine. Dr. Weeks is the 43rd recipient of the award, which was presented to her on December 2 in Philadelphia.

Upcoming CME Programs

December

Dec 10

The Annual Day of Trauma: A Surgery/Critical Care Symposium

The Union League of Philadelphia
140 S. Broad Street, Philadelphia

Contact: Jennifer Sumter, 215-762-2581

January

Jan 27

9th Annual Conference "A Day with the Newborn: An Investment in Our Future"

St. Christopher's Hospital for Children
Erie Avenue at Front Street, Philadelphia

Contact: Kathy Rellstab, 215-427-5159

February

Feb 10

Cardiac Auscultation

Drexel University College of Medicine
Center City Hahnemann Campus, Philadelphia

Contact: Denise Vernier, 215-762-8695

Show of Shows February 11: The Pediatric AIDS Benefit Concert

You won't want to miss this year's Pediatric AIDS Benefit Concert. It's fun, it's a wonderful cause, and the faculty and student performers provide first-class entertainment. There are some, especially among the students, who could have made a professional career with their talent, says faculty adviser (and performer) Dr. Dennis Novack.

The benefit was launched a dozen years ago by students who wanted to support the St. Chris HIV-AIDS Clinic. From the first year, raising \$5,000 in a hospital auditorium, the event has grown and grown till it brings in around \$25,000 and fills the College of Physicians.

Second-year medical students Sebastian Brooke, Chairman, and Kevin Schulz, Entertainment Chair, are among a committee of

eight students leading this year's effort, with another 40 or 50 students involved in planning and running the event.

About 20 acts will be presented at the concert on the evening of February 11, ranging from classical opera, violin, and Indian dances to Dr. Novack's classic rock band. In addition to performers from medical and biomedical faculty and students, there will be some contributions by children from the clinic.

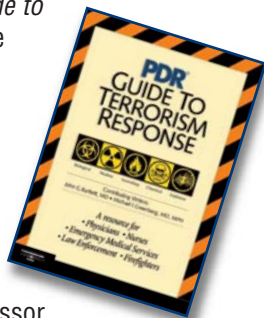
In addition to entertainment, attendees will have the opportunity to view the exhibits in the unique Mutter Museum. Incredible amounts of delicious food and a silent auction full of temptations round out the evening. Look for tickets to go on sale around the second week of January.

Contact: Marie Hartman, 215-991-8219

Grants and Kudos

Michael I. Greenberg, M.D., MPH, Director of the Division of Medical Toxicology, received a grant of \$15,000 from Thompson Scientific, publishers of the *Physicians Desk Reference*, to act as co-editor and a writer of the *PDR Guide to Terrorism Response*, a ready reference guidebook for pre-hospital providers, nurses and physicians.

Dr. Greenberg is responsible for the section dealing with chemical issues in the first-of-its-kind book, due out in December. In addition to being a Professor of Emergency Medicine at DUCOM, Dr. Greenberg is also a Professor in the Drexel University School of Public Health.



Dr. O'Donnell Honored as 2005 Woman of Distinction

College of Medicine Trustee Dr. Donna Gentile O'Donnell has been named a Woman of Distinction by the National Association of Women Business Owners. Selection for this honor is based on commitment to professional excellence and community involvement. Dr. O'Donnell is the Managing Director, Life Sciences Portfolio, of the Eastern Technology Council.



Dr. O'Donnell



Dr. Minassian

Shihab Minassian, M.D., Director of the Division of Fertility and Reproductive Endocrinology, was named to the Board of Directors of the Obstetrical Society of Philadelphia. The 137-year-old society is the oldest and most prestigious of its kind in the U.S. Dr. Minassian's specific mission for the society is to enhance student interest and selection of OB/GYN as a career choice.

Dr. Minassian was also elected the first chair of the Androgen Excess Special Interest Group of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine at the 2005 annual meeting in Montreal. The group consists of clinicians and researchers in polycystic ovarian syndrome, the most common cause of infertility in women.

Cover Story



November was a banner month for Drexel University College of Medicine. In addition to the examples of recognition cited by Dean Homan in the Dean's Desk (page 2), a handsome photo of the Queen Lane campus graced the cover of *Academic Medicine*.

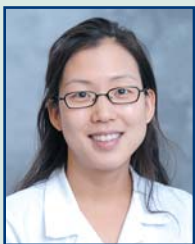


Dr. Clark

Brian D. Clark, Ph.D., has joined the College of Medicine as a Research Assistant Professor in the Department of Neurobiology and Anatomy. After receiving his A.B. from Brown University and M.S. from the University of Michigan, Dr. Clark earned his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago. He completed his postdoctoral training at Hahnemann University. Dr. Clark joins the College of Medicine from

Temple University Department of Physical Therapy, where he was an Assistant Professor, as well as Temple University School of Medicine, where he was an Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Department of Physiology.

Neurobiology & Anatomy: 215-991-8431



Dr. Ko

Christine J. Ko, M.D., has joined the College of Medicine as an Assistant Professor of Dermatology. After earning her M.D. from New York University School of Medicine, Dr. Ko completed her residency in the Department of Dermatology and a fellowship in the Department of Pathology at the University of California. Most recently, Dr. Ko was an Assistant Clinical Professor

of Dermatology at UC Irvine, as well as a Clinical Instructor of Pathology and Associate Physician Diplomate at UCLA.

Drexel Dermatology Associates: 215-762-5550



Dr. Magnani

Gretchen Magnani, M.D., has joined the College of Medicine as an Assistant Professor of Psychiatry specializing in adult psychiatry. After earning her M.D. from the University of New Mexico School of Medicine, Dr. Magnani completed her residency in psychiatry at Drexel University College of Medicine, earning the position of Chief Resident. Most recently Dr. Magnani was the Medical Director of the PCU Unit and an attending Psychiatrist for the Fairmount Behavioral Health System in Philadelphia.

Drexel Psychiatric Associates: 215-831-4714



Dr. Simon

Barbara Simon, M.D., has joined the College of Medicine as an Assistant Instructor of Medicine specializing in endocrinology. After receiving her undergraduate degree from Lehigh University and completing a post-baccalaureate Pre-Health Program at the University of Pennsylvania, Dr. Simon earned her M.D. from MCP Hahnemann School of Medicine. She completed her

residency training in internal medicine at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, where she also recently completed a fellowship in endocrinology.

Drexel Endocrinology Associates: 215-762-5030

Dr. Komarnicky Adds New Post



Lydia Komarnicky, M.D., Professor and Chair of Radiation Oncology, Drexel University College of Medicine, has also been named the Chief of Radiation Oncology for the Cancer Treatment Centers of America, Eastern Division, located in Philadelphia. The sole Northeastern location is scheduled to open on December 15, 2005. Cancer Treatment Centers of America encourage patients to participate in their treatment options.

Avian Influenza...continued

simulated avian influenza outbreak. Founded in the wake of September 11, the Strategic Policy Forum at NDU develops games that bring together high-level members of the executive and legislative branches to discuss real-life scenarios – not necessarily to provide hard answers, but rather to present insight into the kinds of decisions they would have to make.

Senior officials from the Department of Health and Human Services, the Centers for Disease Control, and other agencies are expected to join key members of Congress in playing out the pandemic scenario. Similar exercises have laid out the challenges like this: A certain number of people are sick. The disease is contagious. What are you going to do about vaccine stocks? Health supplies? By the way, we're getting pressure from other countries to send aid. Then one of the players makes a decision, and another says, "You can't do that – the economic consequences are too high." It's good practice, because if the pandemic comes to town, much will depend on that kind of interplay.

**Contact: Dr. Katsikis, peter.katsikis@drexelmed.edu
Dr. O'Donnell, 215-762-6555**

Dragon Boat Festival: Doing Good by Having Fun

The Schuylkill River and its banks were full of dragons of one kind or another on October 1 for the Philadelphia International Dragon Boat Festival, and the College of Medicine was well represented.



St. Christopher's Dragons in blue boat

The Dragons of St. Christopher's Hospital for Children put two boats on the river, crewed by administrators, NICU nurses, physicians and support personnel and captained by DUCOM clinical faculty member Dr. Eleanor Smergel, who is on the U.S. National Dragon Boat Team, and Dominick Carella, R.N. The pediatrics teams, who have now participated for three years, used the event as a fund-raiser to support Katie's Crusaders, named in memory of a beloved young cancer patient, in the construction of Katie's Kastle, a house to accommodate parents whose children are patients at the hospital.

"Don't Call Me Francis," the team fielded by the DUCOM Department of Radiation Oncology and Hahnemann Hospital, is

the namesake – or not – of the patient who suggested staffers enter a boat in the festival. Every day when the receptionist greeted the patient, "Good morning, Francis," he responded, "Don't call me Francis." When department staff learned that they could raise money for their new Brain and Spinal Cord Tumor Program by racing, the decision was made. Paddlers included administrative assistants, doctors, nurses, receptionists, researchers, technicians, spouses, boyfriends, nephews, and "coerced children" of department members.

Moto Dragons I and II were the entries of the Office of Biomedical Graduate, Postdoctoral & Professional Studies. In an interesting division of labor, Biomed put together separate student and faculty boats, led respectively by fourth-year graduate student Megan



Biomed Moto Dragons afloat

Wright and Biochemistry Chair Dr. Jane Clifford. The faculty boat finished in first place in one of its semifinal heats and moved on to the finals. The Moto Dragons' beneficiary was the Red Cross.

Compliance Corner: The Compliance and Ethics Program for 2006



Edward G. Longazel
Chief Compliance Officer

The change in the calendar year will usher in a new name for the Compliance Program at Drexel University College of Medicine. The newly named Compliance and Ethics Program will reflect important changes in the Federal Sentencing Guidelines. These guidelines have strengthened the requirements for compliance programs by acknowledging the importance of ethics as a critical component of any corporate culture that embraces compliance.

The Compliance and Ethics Program will provide new training for our board members, senior management and every employee. Training will focus on ethics and compliance in a healthcare environment with role- and function-specific modules included. Additionally, the confidential hotline will move to a toll-free number staffed by a company that specializes in 24-hour-hotline customer service.

The Compliance and Ethics Program will provide training early in the new year as our program and corporate culture mature beyond compliance to compliance and ethics, with publication and distribution of a revised Compliance and Ethics Program Manual in the spring of 2006.

The Compliance and Ethics Department provides training, monitoring and regulatory research services for Drexel University College of Medicine. Call to pose a question or to request a training program for compliance or privacy issues.

We never guess! We ask! Questions? Training requests? Call 215-762-2023

CONFIDENTIAL HOTLINE: 215-762-1010

245 N. 15th Street, Mail Stop 484
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Bulletins:

Middle-Age People More Likely to Use Alternative Medicine

Middle-age people are more likely than younger or older adults to use complementary and alternative medicine (CAM), according to researchers at Wake Forest University School of Medicine, but are also more likely to use CAM for prevention rather than for treatment of specific conditions. The study, which used data for 31,044 people collected in the CDC's 2002 National Health Interview Survey, also looked at differences by race and ethnicity. The data showed that use of biologically based therapies, such as folk medicine and herb use, rose steadily by age group among Hispanics until old age, while use by whites and blacks peaked in middle age.

Drexel Doc takes part in National Women's Health Campaign

Ana Núñez, M.D., Director of Women's Health Education and Associate Professor of Medicine, was selected to participate in the "Talking to Your Doctor" public education campaign launched by Wyeth Pharmaceuticals to inform women about the importance of consulting a doctor or other healthcare professional at menopause. The nationwide program features actor and former "Charlie's Angel" Cheryl Ladd as the campaign's spokesperson. Núñez (left in photo) and Ladd recently appeared on the "10 Show" on NBC. For more information, visit www.talkingtoyourdoctor.com.



Hospitalists Are Becoming Commonplace

The *Philadelphia Business Journal* reports that 40% of the 5,000 hospitals in the country employ hospitalists, physicians whose specialty is to care for patients at a medical center from the time they are admitted to the time they are discharged. The Society of Hospital Medicine, a Philadelphia-based trade group that estimates 25,000 hospitalists will be working by the end of the decade, says the specialty group helps lower the cost of inpatient care and alleviates the need for primary-care doctors to leave the office practice.

Calendar:

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|-----------------|--|
| December | <i>National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month</i> |
| Dec 10 | The Annual Day of Trauma held at the Union League of Philadelphia
140 S. Broad Street
Contact: Jennifer Sumter, 215-762-2581 |
| January | <i>Cervical Health Awareness Month</i>
<i>National Volunteer Blood Donor Month</i> |
| Jan 9 | Faculty Development Program
5:00 pm: Reception, 6:00 pm: Play "July 7, 1994"
Contact: Bonnie Emilius, 215-991-8561 |
| February | <i>Heart Health Month</i> |
| Feb 11 | Pediatric AIDS Benefit Concert , produced by DUCOM students.
College of Physicians/Mutter Museum.
Contact: Marie Hartman, 215-991-8219 |
| Feb 27-28 | Viral Hepatitis Drug Discovery & Development Summit
Hilton Boston Back Bay - Boston, Massachusetts
For more information: www.srinstitute.com |
| March | <i>National Multiple Sclerosis Education and Awareness Month</i>
<i>National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month</i> |
| Mar 6 | Women's History Month, Kate Hurd Mead Lecture
Contact: 215-842-7041 |
| Mar 28 | <i>National Sleep Awareness Week</i> |