



NEWSPAGER

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

From Molecules to Health – Making a Mark in Philadelphia

January/February 2006

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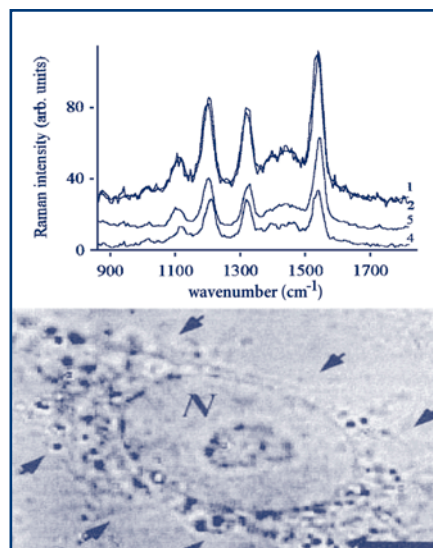
Dr. Lim

Drexel Collaborative Research Forum. The name sounds straightforward – institutional. But behind it lies the chance for an exciting trip through unmapped territory. Under the tagline “promoting bench to bedside research,” the Drexel Collaborative Research Forum (CRF) is a grass-roots movement to mix clinicians, basic scientists and engineers at all levels to brainstorm and collaborate on new approaches to health problems.

To date, five individual forums have been held under the CRF umbrella – and more are planned (see sidebar on page 4). Each session presents one technology, followed by a discussion that is – to say the least – free wheeling. This Big Idea is the brainchild of co-directors Diane Lim, M.D., Assistant Professor of Medicine, and Bahrad Sokhansanj, Ph.D., Assistant Professor in the School of Biomedical Engineering, Science and Health Systems.

The instruction portion of each forum is concise and highly structured – three speakers in 30 minutes. First, an engineer introduces the technology. The inaugural forum, in September, highlighted raman microspectroscopy, which can detect changes in human tissue using

white light (below). Next up, a basic scientist gives just 5 minutes on the topic. “We don’t want to know what’s going to get you the Nobel Prize,” says Dr. Ari Brooks, Assistant Professor of Surgery, also a



Raman microspectroscopy can identify a biopsy sample's unique wavelength and reconstruct images to a 1-micron resolution.

co-director. “We want to know how raman applies in your area.” The final speaker is a clinician (5 minutes) who has some experience with the technology.

And then . . . pandemonium. Because what really makes this go is the discussion. In advance the team locates seven or more engineers, basic scientists and clinicians who are willing to give the topic some thought and throw out ideas in a roomful of colleagues. Dispersed in the audience, these ringers drive the discussion. Not that much driving is needed.

“You see it go back and forth,” Dr. Lim says:

‘You can’t do that, but you could do it here – ’

‘But that’s not the point – ’

‘Here’s my sample – can *you* tell which is blood and which is urine?’

‘I bet a ramanscope could.’

“We came up with 15 or 20 good ideas in just one night – some of them are patentable,” Dr. Lim reports.

Much to her delight, the raman topic drew 100 people. “That first meeting was significant,” she says. “People want to see this happen – they came from St. Chris, every college, every school, it was amazing.”

The seed for CRF was planted when Department of Medicine Chair Dr. James Reynolds asked Dr. Lim to put together a colloquium for fellows in the Department of Medicine. They would start with a “town hall” meeting and a basic science lecture.

Seeking speakers for the science lectures, Dr. Lim

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Sleepless in Philadelphia?

Drexel Sleep Center Offers State-of-the-Art Services and Luxury

When patients check into the College of Medicine’s brand new Drexel Sleep CenterSM of Manayunk, they may think they’re staying in an upscale hotel. According to Joanne E. Getsy, M.D., Medical Director of the center and Associate Professor of Medicine, that’s the plan.



Dr. Getsy

“When a patient comes in for a sleep study, we want them to feel as comfortable as possible,” says Dr. Getsy, who is board certified in sleep medicine and pulmonary disease. “If the room feels more like a hotel room than a clinical space, the patient is likely to sleep better, and we get a better study.”



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

Zarro, Assistant Dean, Special Student Services and Community Outreach, and Elissa Goldberg, LSW, has as its mission to foster service opportunities for students, who learn through the experience how psychosocial factors impact on health. The OCE sponsors many worthy activities; I will mention two: the first-year service requirement and "Bridging the Gaps" internships.

Each first-year medical student participates in a collaborative community service project. By design, the projects are primarily non-clinical and interdisciplinary. For example, a student might work on science activities with at-risk youth; or if the service is healthcare related, the student will team with a social worker or occupational therapist, rather than a physician.

Many of the takeaway lessons involve respectful communication. Interviewing residents and staff at a retirement center taught one student how difficult it can be to live in a nursing home: "This experience has given me new respect for older individuals and their struggle to maintain their autonomy," he wrote.

Another student, who worked in an after-school program, saw that children who could not read were too proud to admit it, bringing home the realization that a physician needs to make sure patients "fully comprehend health issues, without being condescending."

College Stands Out for Community Service

Among the qualities that distinguish Drexel University College of Medicine is its focus on community service. The fact that service is fundamental to our first-year medical curriculum speaks volumes about how DUCOM views the practice of medicine.

The Office of Community Experience (OCE), co-directed by Dr. Vincent

Most students arrive with or quickly acquire the volunteer spirit: each year, from 50 to 75 percent stay involved after they finish their service commitment.

Bridging the Gaps (BTG), now in its 16th year, is a consortium of the five Philadelphia medical schools, formed to link "the training of health and social service professionals with the provision of health-related service to underserved communities." BTG's Community Health Internship Program puts interschool, interdisciplinary teams to work with disadvantaged populations for a seven-week period in the summer. Medical students can participate between their first and second years of school. The rewards are numerous.

As an illustration, I would like to mention Karin Reed, a DUCOM medical student, whose work was brought to my attention by Dr. Lucy Tuton, Executive Director of Bridging the Gaps, and a staff member at the University of Pennsylvania. Karin was part of an interdisciplinary team of Penn and Drexel students who worked at Covenant House, an organization that offers crisis care and outreach to homeless, runaway and at-risk youth.



Karin Reed

Singled out for their maturity and competence, Karin's group was asked to make a presentation to a Pennsylvania Public Health Association panel entitled "Sustainability and Collaboration: The Viability of Linking Service with Training."

"Karin was so impressive and professional," Dr. Tuton writes, "not only during the panel session, but throughout her involvement in the Bridging the Gaps Community Health Internship Program.... [She] is a wonderful ambassador for your school."

I am proud of our students' service and look forward to hearing more about their experiences. I am grateful to Dr. Zarro, Ms. Goldberg, and Christinette Thompson, the OCE Program Coordinator, for their efforts and for the compassion they radiate in our College community.

Contact: 215-762-3500

February 15 Arnold P. Gold Lectureship on Humanism in Medicine Medical School and Beyond: Learning to Care

The Arnold P. Gold Lecture on Humanism in Medicine will be presented on February 15, 2006, by renowned pediatrician and geneticist Dr. D. Holmes Morton. His talk is entitled "Medical School and Beyond: Learning to Care." Dr. Morton is the Director of the Clinic for Special Children, in Strasburg, Pa., which he co-founded in 1990. The nonprofit clinic, which provides medical care for children with inherited disorders, is supported by the Amish and Mennonite families of Lancaster County who have children with maple syrup urine disease and glutaric aciduria.

Dr. Morton is a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Society of Human Genetics, and the U.S. and

European Societies for the Study of Inborn Errors of Metabolism. In 1993, Dr. Morton received the Albert Schweitzer Prize for Humanitarianism.

The Arnold P. Gold Foundation was created to foster humanism in medicine. (One of its initiatives is the White Coat Ceremony now celebrated at 90 percent of U.S. medical schools.) At DUCOM, the Foundation has helped establish the annual lectureship and our student awards for humanism in medicine.

This year's lecture will take place at 4 pm in Geary Auditorium, in the New College Building, Center City Hahnemann Campus.

Contact: 215-762-8219

St. Christopher's Hospital for Children: Partner in Pediatric Medical Education

From the brightly colored mural in the atrium to the artwork drawn by patients, it's clear from the moment you step inside St. Christopher's Hospital for Children that you're in a place that cares about kids. This 161-bed facility, which has been named one of the best pediatric hospitals in the United States by *US News & World Report* three times, couples that sense of caring with a strong tradition of medical education.

For nearly half of its 130-year history, St. Christopher's Hospital for Children has been an academically affiliated medical center. "We place significant value on the role of residents as teachers of medical students, and attending physicians as role models," says Daniel Schidlow, M.D., Chair of the Department of Pediatrics, Drexel University College of Medicine, who has been on staff at St. Christopher's for 30 years.

Our affiliation with St. Christopher's goes back more than a decade. Last year, 114 DUCOM third-year students completed their pediatric clerkships at St. Christopher's. The hospital also provided 186 four-week electives to our fourth-year students and rotations for 64 visiting students. In addition, 95 residents and fellows trained in pediatrics and its subspecialties, including, for example, child neurology, endocrinology, hematology/oncology, infectious diseases, pulmonary medicine, and dental medicine. The hospital also provides the required pediatric portion of surgical, medical and psychiatry among other GME programs for those who are completing adult residencies sponsored by Drexel University College of Medicine. (It's nice to note that 14 of the residents at St. Christopher's are DUCOM graduates.)



The award-winning hospital has just celebrated 130 years.

First- and second-year students benefit from a program developed this year by the Drexel Pediatric Interest Group in which pre-clinical students are paired with faculty mentors whom they may opt to shadow. "This gives the students some exposure to clinicians while they are still immersed in the non-clinical portion of their education, and they really enjoy the break," explains Robert S. McGregor, M.D., Associate Chair and Associate Professor, Department of Pediatrics, Drexel University College of Medicine, and Director, Pediatric Residency, St. Christopher's.

The physicians and employees of St. Christopher's handle 8,200 admissions annually, 5,800 inpatient and outpatient surgical procedures, and 40,000 visits to the hospital's Regional Level I Pediatric Trauma Center, exposing students and residents to a wide variety of pathologies within the pediatric realm, from newborns to adolescents.

"By working with children, they have a unique chance to sharpen their perceptive and interactive skills. Children are very direct and readily recognize the spirit in which they're being addressed," says Dr. Schidlow. "This forces medical students to be very much themselves. They learn to be direct and kind and to communicate with children of various ages."

St. Christopher's also serves the pediatric community by providing free dental care to children ages 3 to 8 in North Philadelphia through the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile, which operates three days a week at various schools. The Care Mobile is staffed by the hospital's dental medicine department and funded in part by the St. Christopher's Foundation for Children and Drexel University College of Medicine, as well as McDonald's. Most recently, the College contributed more than \$29,000 to retrofit and purchase equipment for the Care Mobile.

"The affiliation between Drexel University College of Medicine and St. Christopher's provides both institutions with the ongoing opportunity to engage in creative collaborative efforts and joint research," says Dr. Schidlow. "We are continuously exploring new possibilities."



A bright lobby welcomes children.

Education is so integral to the fiber of St. Christopher's that residents must complete a program designed to teach them how to be good teachers through structured training and feedback. "Every physician should be a teacher in some capacity," says Charles R. Reed, M.D., Chief, Division of General Pediatrics, and Director, Graduate Medical Education, St. Christopher's. "During your career, you will need to know how to teach students or doctors, and patients."

From Molecules to Health...continued

attended a Drexel University Biomedical Engineering seminar and, as she puts it, “became addicted.” She heard lectures by Avijit Ghosh, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Physics & Atmospheric Sciences, and Chang Chang, Ph.D., Assistant Professor in the Biomedical Engineering School, and met Dr. Sokhansanj. All eventually became CRF co-directors.

As Drs. Lim and Sokhansanj realized the benefits and barriers for collaborative research, they began to think this cross fertilization should expand beyond the Department of Medicine to other residency programs, even “across campuses and cultures.” Faculty needed to know all the resources available on every campus, and the next generation of researchers needed to learn how to collaborate. Wherever Dr. Lim asked, people were enthusiastic – “I’ve always wanted to do this!” Dr. Brooks remarked – and willing to help.

More co-directors came on board with good ideas, including Gianluca Gallo, Ph.D., Department of Neuroscience and Anatomy, and Michael Bouchard, Ph.D., Department of Biochemistry and Microbiology. Support – mentoring, money, logistics – has come from many quarters. Dr. Lim especially credits Dr. Reynolds; and Drs. Banu Onaral, Director of the School of Biomedical

Upcoming Forums: Likely to Be Lively

The Drexel Collaborative Research Forum is an interactive opportunity for physicians, basic scientists and engineers to work collaboratively in solving disease and health problems. It is open to all Drexel faculty, resident house staff and students.

September 20	Raman Microspectroscopy
October 26	RNA Interference as a Therapeutic and Tool
November 15	Imaging the Invisible: From Quantum to Macro
December 14	Targeted Drug Deliveries: What’s in the Pipeline
January 10	Translating Genomics and Systems Biology
▶ February 22	Tissue Engineering—Building and Rebuilding
March 14	Microfluidics: Plumbing for Bio-Applications
April 19	Protecting Your Intellectual Property

Engineering, Science and Health Systems; Ken Blank, Vice Provost, Office of Research Administration; and Jay Yanoff, Director, Educational Development and Support at Hahnemann University Hospital. Dr. Richard Gambescia, President of the Hahnemann medical staff, recently notified Dr. Lim that the group had decided to give the additional funds needed to sponsor the events.

“Drexel is known as an engineering university, and it has acquired a well-known medical school. Together, we can make our mark in collaborative ‘molecules to health’ research,” Dr. Lim concludes. “I think it’s going to put us on the map in Philadelphia.”

Information: www.drexel.edu/academics/crf

Sleepless in Philadelphia?...continued

Each of the five rooms at the Drexel Sleep Center, which opened in October, has the look and feel of a real bedroom, with a queen-size bed, bedside table, carpeting, and climate control. Dr. Getsy notes that this hotel-like atmosphere has become a virtual prerequisite to accreditation by the American Academy of Sleep Medicine, which the center received in December. Accreditation allows the center to accept all insurance plans for sleep studies.

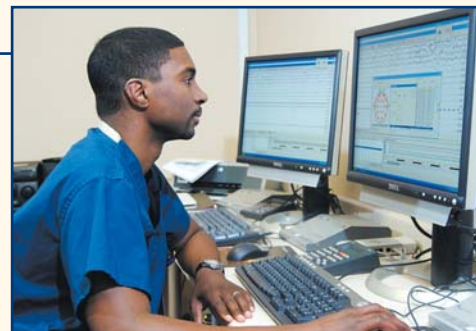
The new center more than doubles DUCOM’s capacity for sleep studies. It also aids the accommodation of very obese patients. A room designed to meet their needs has a bariatric bed that supports up to 1,000 lbs., with an adjustable head and foot because obese patients often find it difficult to lie flat.

State-of-the-art digital equipment records and processes the sleep studies. Brain waves, oxygen levels, heart rhythms and breathing efforts appear on the same page as a video of the patient. “This allows the doctor to see exactly what was happening during the study,” notes Dr. Getsy.

Assisting Dr. Getsy at the center is new Clinical Director Marc Johnson, who brings many years of experience in sleep medicine, as well as Administrative Assistant Sara Lattanzio. Two sleep technicians will be performing the all-night sleep studies.

The center will also welcome two sleep medicine fellows as part of a program recently founded through the College of Medicine and Tenet Health Systems. “Sleep medicine fellowships are rare, and we are delighted to have the opportunity to take part,” says Dr. Getsy. The fellows will also train at sleep centers at Hahnemann University Hospital and St. Christopher’s Hospital for Children.

Sleep apnea and snoring are the most common sleep disorders seen at sleep centers, followed by a growing incidence of insomnia, reports Dr. Getsy. The Drexel Sleep Center is collaborating with Jacqueline Kloss, Ph.D., a clinical psychologist and Associate Professor in Drexel University’s Department of Psychology, who has a special interest in behavioral techniques for the treatment of insomnia.



**Sleep Center Clinical Director
Marc C. Johnson, RPSGT**

“Dr. Kloss will be working with us to establish a cognitive therapy and behavioral modification therapy for insomnia patients,” explains Dr. Getsy. “This represents a great opportunity for two parts of the University to enhance services through collaboration.”

Other common disorders and problems that Dr. Getsy diagnoses and treats include restless legs syndrome, narcolepsy, shift-work sleep disorder, nightmares, and poor sleep habits among teenagers.

“Sleep deprivation can be very dangerous,” warns Dr. Getsy. “Statistics show that sleepy drivers cause far more car accidents than drunk drivers. Lack of sleep can also lead to depression, immune suppression, irritability, memory lapses and other cognitive difficulties, so it’s very important to seek treatment.”

Contact: 215-482-0899



Dr. Eskin



Dr. Brooks

Bernard A. Eskin, M.D., Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and **Frederick Stoddard II, M.D.**, a resident in the Department of Surgery, presented on the topic “Microarray Characterization of

Iodine Metabolic Pathways in Breast Cancer” at the 13th International Thyroid Conference on November 3, 2005, in Buenos Aires. **Ari D. Brooks, M.D.**, Associate Professor, Department of Surgery was also a co-author of this research.

Dr. Stoddard also presented “Iodine Treatment Down-Regulates Elements of the Estrogen Pathway in a Breast Cancer Cell Line” which he co-authored with **Dr. Brooks** and **Dr. Eskin**, at the American Association for Cancer Research “Advances in Breast Cancer Research” meeting in La Jolla, Calif., in September.

Marshall L. Jacobs, M.D., Chief and Professor, Cardiothoracic Surgery, St. Christopher’s Hospital for Children, wrote an editorial comment that appeared in the *European Journal of Cardio-thoracic Surgery*, Volume 28, 2005.



Dr. McGregor

Robert S. McGregor, M.D., Associate Professor and Associate Chair of Clinical Affairs, Department of Pediatrics, St. Christopher’s Hospital for Children, co-authored an article entitled “Differential Diagnosis of Chest Symptoms in the Athlete,” which appeared in the 2005 Volume 29 edition of *Clinical Reviews in Allergy & Immunology*.



Dr. Navas-Martin

Sonia Navas-Martin, Ph.D., Assistant Professor in the Department of Microbiology & Immunology and research investigator in the Institute for Molecular Medicine & Infectious Disease, Center for Molecular Virology & Neuroimmunology, co-authored an article entitled “Coronavirus Pathogenesis and the Emerging Pathogen Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus,” which

was featured in the December 2005 issue of the *Microbiology & Molecular Biology Reviews*.

Charles R. Reed, M.D., Professor of Pediatrics and Chief of the Division of General Pediatrics at St. Christopher’s Hospital for Children, presented a seminar entitled “How Many Ounces of Prevention Does it Take to Prevent Child Abuse and Neglect” at the 49th Annual Convention of the American Association of Medical Assistants, September 9–13, in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Pulmonary Department at Chest Physicians Conference

Physicians in the Pulmonary Division of the Department of Medicine at Drexel University College of Medicine recently attended the International American College of Chest Physicians Conference of 2005 in Montreal. The following residents and fellows were recognized for their achievements: **Avelino Verceles, M.D.**, a third-year Pulmonary & Critical Care Fellow presented “S.E.P.S.I.S.,” and was awarded a \$1,000 Young Investigator Award; **Justin Sebastian, M.D.**, a second-year Pulmonary & Critical Care Fellow won first prize and received \$100 for his presentation, “A View Through the Hangman’s Noose: Virchow’s Triad Revisited”; **Navasuma Havaligi, M.D.**, a third-year Internal Medicine Resident presented a poster on “The Significance of Particulate Matter in Sarcoid Granulomas Using Polarizing Light Microscopy,” and won second place and \$500 in the Interstitial Diseases poster category; **Juliana Rajter, M.D.**, a third-year Pulmonary & Critical Care Fellow presented “The Predictive Value of Spindles in Seizure Detection.” Congratulations!



Pictured at the Chest Physicians Conference are (l-r) Drs. Anita Ko and Diane Lim, both Assistant Professors of Medicine; Dr. Verceles; and Herbert Patrick, M.D., Associate Professor of Medicine.

Donovan McNabb’s Sports Hernia Surgery Performed by Dr. Meyers



William Meyers, M.D., Chair of Surgery for the College of Medicine, held a press conference on Thursday, December 1, at Drexel University College of Medicine’s Center City Hahnemann Campus to explain the surgery he performed on Philadelphia Eagles quarterback, Donovan McNabb. All local television stations and newspapers attended the press conference and were able to ask Dr. Meyers questions about the sports hernia operation he performed at Hahnemann University Hospital on November 28.



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

'50s

Melissa A. Warfield, M.D., WMC '55, Professor Emeritus of Pediatrics at Eastern Virginia Medical School (EVMS), has received the Humanism in Medicine Award of the Association of American Medical Colleges. The award, sponsored by the Pfizer Medical Humanities Initiative, honors Dr. Warfield for her work as a medical school faculty physician who serves as a mentor to medical students and a practitioner of patient-centered care. Dr. Warfield has spent more than three decades teaching EVMS students and residents at Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters, where she directed two pediatric residency programs. As a teacher, she emphasized that residents should be "humanists first, and physicians second."

'60s

Allen Cowley, Jr., M.S., HU '65, Ph.D., HU '68, has been selected by the American Physiology Society (APS) to receive the 2006 Ray G. Dags Award for distinguished long-term service to the science of physiology and in particular to the APS. The award will be presented April 14 at the Experimental Biology Meeting in San Francisco. A past president of the APS, Dr. Cowley is an international leader in cardiovascular research. He is the program director of a National Institutes of Health–National Heart Lung and Blood Institute (NIH-NHLBI) Hypertension Program Project Grant and the NIH-NHLBI Specialized Center for Research Grant. Dr. Cowley is Chairman of the Department of Physiology at the Medical College of Wisconsin.

Ronald M. Repice, M.D., HU '65, is the inventor of the Wristac, a device to treat carpal tunnel syndrome without surgery. His paper "New insights into Conservative Treatment Approach of Carpal Tunnel Syndrome. Use of the Wrist Traction Device as a Preventative Tool" was accepted for publication in the January issue of the *American Journal of Pain Management*. This is the second scientific article published on the device. An earlier study was published in the January 2004 issue of *AJPM*.

'70s

Ric A. Baxter, M.D., MCP '78, has been granted medical staff privileges at Sacred Heart Hospital in Allentown, Pa. Dr. Baxter practices at Heartland Health Homecare and Hospice in Allentown.

'80s

Mark Cohen, M.D., HU '85, was promoted to the new position of Chief of Healthcare Informatics for Lifetime Health Medical Group. He will lead efforts to better integrate technology into healthcare operations at the system's 11 health centers located in Buffalo and Rochester. Most recently he held the positions of Chief of Internal Medicine and Chief of Professional Technology. He also oversees AfterHours Medical Care and three urgent care centers for the group. Dr. Cohen continues to practice internal medicine and pediatrics at the Perinton Health Center in Pittsford, N.Y.

Kathleen Uhl, M.D., MCP '88, has been appointed Director of the Food and Drug Administration's Office of Women's Health. Dr. Uhl is a Captain in the U.S. Public Health Service and most recently served as a supervisory Medical Officer in the FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research. She is a Fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians.

A. George Neubert, M.D., HU '89, has been named Chairman of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Reading Hospital. He will oversee the residency program, as well as numerous departmental sections, including gynecology, oncology and maternal-fetal medicine.

'90s

Jason Spillerman, M.S., HU '95, is the co-founder and principal of Vibrant Development Group, one of the companies that have been hired for the \$3 billion development of the Pocono Manor Inn & Golf Resort. Vibrant Development Group is a strategic planning firm specializing in the planning and development of large-scale destination real estate projects.

'00s

Ralph Brutus, M.D., MCPHU '01, has joined the Central Massachusetts offices of Innovative Physician Services. Dr. Brutus practices psychiatry at Parkview Central in Rochdale, Mass. He also maintains an outpatient practice in Auburn, Mass.

To the Alumni Association:

As President of the Graduate Student Association, I would like to thank you for your continued financial support. You have made it possible for the biomedical graduate students at this University to enhance their educational experience beyond the bounds of what we could normally afford. The 2004-05 donation of \$2,000 went towards the organization and staging of Presentations and Conversations in Research (PCR). PCR is a monthly seminar in which a graduate student presents his/her research to fellow graduate students, allowing for brainstorming about the research, critiquing of presentation skill, and practice for thesis defense. Our students greatly appreciate this opportunity to fine-tune their research and presentation skills. Your donation has also allowed the GSA to organize Career Skills Workshops that enhance the students' ability to prepare for post-graduate school positions in the areas of resume writing, interviewing, and career path decisions. All in all, your support has helped us become better graduate students.

Sincerely,

Heather Painter
GSA President, Ph.D. candidate
Molecular, Cellular Biology & Genetics
Drexel University College of Medicine

February

Feb 8

Cardiac Auscultation

Drexel University College of Medicine
Center City Hahnemann Campus
245 N.15th Street, Philadelphia

Contact: Denise Vernier, 215-762-8695

March

March 11

Management of Complex Foot and Ankle Pathology

Drexel University College of Medicine
Queen Lane Campus
2900 Queen Lane, Philadelphia

Contact: Jennifer Sumter, 215-762-2581

March 15-18 **NADD International Congress VI: Visions of the Future of Our Field: Intellectual Disabilities and Mental Health**

Fairmount Copley Plaza Hotel, Boston

Contact: Anna Auch, 215-831-6923

April

April 21-28

Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine (ELAM) Program for Women

Gregg Conference Center, Bryn Mawr, Pa.

Contact: Deidra Lyngard, 215- 842-6041

In Memoriam

Anna Dumitru Poporad, M.D., WMC '40, passed away December 23 at Kendal at Oberlin in Ohio, the retirement community where she lived. She was 90.

Dr. Poporad, the daughter of Romanian immigrants, was born in Sharon, Pa., and earned her bachelor's degree at the University of Pittsburgh. A board-certified anesthesiologist who specialized in pediatric anesthesia, she practiced at Huron Road Hospital the bulk of her career and also worked at University Hospitals of Cleveland and Metropolitan General Hospital. She served on the faculty of Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine from 1972 until her retirement in 1979.

Dr. Poporad was a past president of the Cleveland Society of Anesthesiologists and Women's Medical Society of Cleveland, and had served as a trustee of the former Women's General Hospital.



Body Worlds: The Anatomical Exhibition of Real Human Bodies now at the Franklin Institute, Philadelphia, was the imaginative setting for a joint alumni-student event November 18. Sponsored by the Alumni Association, the occasion included timed entry to the much-admired exhibit, followed by a reception in Franklin Hall to welcome Dr. Richard V. Homan, the College of Medicine's Senior Vice President for Health Affairs and Annenberg Dean. Entranced, second-year medical student Amy Hwang (photo) focuses on one of the 200 real human specimens on display – ranging from tissue sections to whole bodies – which have been preserved through a method called “plastination.” Visit <http://www.fi.edu/> for more information.

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/>

History Channel Awards “Save Our History” Grant to Archives



The Archives and Special Collections on Women in Medicine and Homeopathy was recently awarded a Save Our History grant by the History Channel. The project, *Preserving Women's History in Our Own Backyard*, is a collaboration between the Archives and the Philadelphia High School for Girls, and will teach students about the significant history of women physicians and the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania, while also helping them to understand archives. The students will transcribe primary documents for inclusion in the Archives' recently unveiled digital collection *Women Physicians, 1850s-1970s* (<http://archives.drexelmed.edu/womanmd>), which makes 28,000 pages of historic materials accessible electronically. The Archives anticipates ongoing collaborations with Girls' High, which shares numerous alumnae with Woman's Med and Medical College of Pennsylvania.

Correction: The December “Arrivals” misstated several aspects of Dr. Barbara Simon’s career, including her current title. Here is a corrected announcement:



Dr. Simon

Barbara Simon, M.D., has joined the College of Medicine as an Assistant Professor of Medicine specializing in endocrinology. After receiving her undergraduate degree from Lehigh University, Dr. Simon worked in the field of biomedical research. She eventually pursued a clinical career by completing a post-baccalaureate Pre-Health Program at the University of Pennsylvania, and earning her M.D. from MCP Hahnemann School of Medicine. She completed her postgraduate training at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital with an Internal Medicine Internship and Residency, and most recently completed an Endocrinology Fellowship.

Drexel Endocrinology Associates: 215-762-5030



Dr. Ara

Jahan Ara, Ph.D., has joined the College of Medicine as a Research Assistant Professor for the Department of Pediatrics in the Division of Neonatal-Perinatal Research. After receiving a Ph.D. in Biochemistry from Aligarh University in Aligarh, India, Dr. Ara completed a postdoctoral fellowship in the Department of Pathobiology at the School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Ara joins the College of Medicine from The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, where she was a Research Associate and Assistant Member of the Stokes Institute. Dr. Ara’s current research focuses on the neuroprotection in newborns by hypoxic preconditioning.

Department of Pediatrics, Neonatology Research: 215-842-4967



Dr. Bell

Joanna D. Bell, M.D., has joined the College of Medicine as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Medicine – Internal Medicine Division. After earning her M.D. from MCP Hahnemann School of Medicine, Dr. Bell completed her postgraduate training in internal medicine and pediatrics at Rhode Island Hospital/Hasbro Children’s Hospital at the Brown Medical School. Dr. Bell will be working in the Partnership Comprehensive Care Practice at Drexel University College of Medicine.

Partnership Comprehensive Care Practice: 215-762-2530



Dr. Martin-Garcia

Julio Martin-Garcia, Ph.D., has joined the College of Medicine as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology. After earning his Ph.D. in biochemistry and molecular biology from the Universidad Autonoma of Madrid in Spain, Dr. Martin-Garcia completed his postdoctoral research training and held a Research Associate Scientist position in the Department of Neurology at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. Dr. Martin-Garcia’s current research focuses on human immunodeficiency virus type 1 neurotropism and associated neuropathogenesis, with the goal of increasing our understanding of the virus and developing more customized therapeutic approaches.

Department of Microbiology & Immunology: 215-762-7586



Dr. Navas-Martin

Sonia Navas-Martin, Ph.D., has joined the College of Medicine as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology. After earning her Ph.D. in biochemistry and molecular biology from the Universidad Autonoma of Madrid in Spain, Dr. Navas-Martin completed her postdoctoral research training at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, where most recently she was a Research Associate Scientist in the Department of Microbiology. Her research focuses on understanding the molecular basis of how RNA viruses cause disease.

Department of Microbiology & Immunology: 215-762-7284



Dr. Pappu

Ramesh Pappu, M.D., has joined the College of Medicine as an Associate Professor of Medicine in the Division of Rheumatology and Director of the Rheumatology Fellowship Program. After earning his M.D. from the Osmania Medical School in India, Dr. Pappu began his postgraduate training with an internship in medicine at the Interfaith Medical Center in Brooklyn, N.Y., followed by a residency in medicine and a fellowship in rheumatology at Cooper Hospital in Camden, N.J. Most recently, Dr. Pappu was a Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine at Jefferson Medical College and an attending physician at Albert Einstein Medical Center.

Medicine/Rheumatology: 215-762-8144



Dr. Pillai

Jyoti Pillai, M.D., has joined the College of Medicine as an Assistant Professor of Neurology. After receiving her medical degree from the Topiwala National Medical College at the University of Mumbai in India, Dr. Pillai received her MRCP, or board certification in internal medicine, from the Royal College of Physicians of London. Dr. Pillai

traveled to the United States to continue her postgraduate training and completed a residency in neurology, serving as Chief Resident, at MCP Hahnemann School of Medicine. Most recently Dr. Pillai completed a fellowship in epilepsy and clinical neurophysiology at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital. She is board certified in neurology and clinical neurophysiology.

Neurology: 215-762-7037



Dr. Ranganna

Karthik M. Ranganna, M.D., has joined the College of Medicine as an Assistant Professor of Medicine in the Division of Nephrology. After receiving his medical degree from the Mysore Medical College in Mysore, India, Dr. Ranganna carried out his postgraduate training at MCP Hahnemann University Hospital with a residency in internal medicine and a

fellowship in nephrology and hypertension. Dr. Ranganna rejoins Drexel University College of Medicine after practicing nephrology in Georgia.

Department of Nephrology: 215-762-6144



Dr. Sola-Visner

Martha C. Sola-Visner, M.D., has joined the College of Medicine as an Associate Professor in the Department of Pediatrics, Division of Neonatology. After receiving her M.D. from Santiago de Guayaquil Catholic University School of Medicine, in Guayaquil, Ecuador, Dr. Sola-Visner did her residency in Pediatrics and fellowship in Neonatal

and Perinatal Medicine at the University of Florida, Shands Children's Hospital. Most recently Dr. Sola-Visner was an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics/Neonatology at the University of Florida. She currently holds a National Institutes of Health grant to study platelet disorders in neonates and serves as a member of an NIH Study Section.

Department of Pediatrics/Neonatology: 215-842-4960

Pennsylvania Supreme Court Recognizes Mediation Program



Justice William Lamb of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court presented a certificate of appreciation from the court's Task Force on Medical Malpractice to President Constantine Papadakis and the Drexel University College of Medicine Board on December 7. The Task Force recognized the College of Medicine's medical malpractice program, citing Dr. Papadakis, Carl "Tobey" Oxholm III, General Counsel, and Deborah R. Lorber, Risk Manager, for "exemplary leadership in the effort to find new ways of resolving healthcare disputes." College Trustee Justice Sandra Newman, Pennsylvania Supreme Court, was instrumental in calling the court's attention to the mediation program. Pictured (l-r) are Board Chairman Manuel Stamatakis, Justice Lamb, Dr. Papadakis, and Attorneys Oxholm and Lorber.

National PharmFree Day at DUCOM

The American Medical Student Association (AMSA), the nation's largest independent medical student organization, with nearly 60,000 members, celebrated National PharmFree Day on November 30 at Drexel University College of Medicine's Center City Hahnemann Campus. The second annual PharmFree Day gave medical students, residents and physicians a forum to voice their opinions regarding the marketing of pharmaceuticals. Dr. Arnold Relman (left in photo), Professor Emeritus at Harvard Medical School and former editor of the New England Journal of Medicine, was the keynote speaker. He was welcomed by Jason Davis, second-year medical student and Vice President of DUCOM's AMSA chapter, who helped organize and promote the nationally recognized event.



Dr. Brian Wigdahl Explores Joint Research Programs With China



Dr. Wigdahl

Dr. Brian Wigdahl, Professor and Chair of the Department of Microbiology and Immunology and Director of the Institute for Molecular Medicine and Infectious Disease, was invited as a visiting scientist to the Peking University Health Science Center School of Public Health and the Peking University Center for Human Disease Genomics from September 16 to 23, 2005, in Beijing. Dr. Wigdahl presented research seminars entitled "Human T Cell Leukemia Virus and Cellular Factors in Neuroinflammatory Disease," "Viral Markers Predictive of HIV-1 CNS Disease," and "Molecular Strategies to Prevent HIV-1 Transmission."

The overall purpose of the trip was to initiate a leadership dialogue on the development of joint research programs in the areas of HIV disease; viral diseases associated with hepatitis virus infection; human genetics of viral susceptibility and chronic disease; basic and applied immunology as it relates to the study of neuroinflammatory disease; vaccine and microbicide

prevention strategies; and antiviral molecular therapeutics. The development of joint graduate student and postdoctoral training program initiatives was also discussed, with special emphasis on collaborative student and postdoctoral research exchange programs. These programs will serve as components of National Institutes of Health programmatic research and training grants.

"The trip was a personally and professionally enlightening and rewarding experience," Dr. Wigdahl says. "Beijing is an expansive, modern, and culturally rich city in the midst of preparing for the 2008 Summer Olympic Games."

Contact: 215-991-8352



Holiday Book Drive Nets Big Smiles



Each of the 288 children at the Mifflin School in East Falls received a holiday gift December 13 in the form of a brand new book, thanks to the efforts of students and faculty at our Queen Lane campus. Twelve second-year medical students accompanied Santa Claus, played by Associate Professor of Anatomy Dr. Dennis DePace, to deliver the

books to the pre-K through eighth-graders. In preparation, the book drive committee had collected 150 new books and \$300 cash, which they used to buy more books. Then the books were sorted and gift-wrapped. More than 100 gently used books also donated for the book drive were given to the school for classroom shelves. The book drive is coordinated by the Office of Community Experience.

Contact: 215-991-8578

Students and Physicians Teach Scouts About Heart Disease, Healthcare Careers



Members of the Girl Scouts of Southeastern Pennsylvania joined female physicians and medical students of Drexel University College of Medicine for an afternoon program designed for the young women to learn about careers in medicine and nursing, and how to live a healthy lifestyle. The program, entitled "Women in Medicine," was held at the Queen Lane Campus. The scouts learned about heart disease, the number one killer in women, and had the chance to participate in real lab work and learn the anatomy of the human heart, the pathology of an abnormal heart, and how to take vital signs. The diverse staff led discussions on how to break into healthcare professions, with a special emphasis on medical school and unique struggles for women. Pictured with scouts is third-year student Mary Kimmel.

Study Assesses Faculty Well-Being at Four Medical Schools

Barbara Schindler, M.D., Vice Dean for Educational and Academic Affairs and Professor of Psychiatry at Drexel University College of Medicine, is lead author of a study published in the January issue of *Academic Medicine*, which found that changes in the healthcare environment have had a negative impact on the health and well-being of academic physicians: “The Impact of the Changing Health Care Environment on the Health and Well-Being of Faculty at Four Medical Schools” (www.academicmedicine.org).



Dr. Schindler

Among the other authors are Dennis H. Novack, M.D., Associate Dean for Medical Education and Professor of Medicine, and Diane G. Cohen, Program Director, Standardized Patient Program, both DUCOM. Edward Gracely, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Preventive Medicine, helped with the statistical analysis of the data.

The study found significant changes in the work environment for academic physicians since 1984, with decreased time to teach and do research and increased clinical time. Elevated rates of depressive symptoms were found, especially in junior faculty. Perceptions of institutional instability predicted depression, anxiety and work strain, which negatively affected job satisfaction and mental health but not life satisfaction. The study speaks to the need for chairs, deans and colleagues to recognize faculty in distress and to provide both appropriate faculty development opportunities and other interventions to ensure healthy, productive, and stable faculty. **Contact: 215-991-8561**

DUCOM Faculty Shines at AAMC

The following faculty members displayed posters at the Association of American Medical Colleges meeting:

Vincent Zarro, M.D., Elissa Goldberg, LSW, presented “The Newcomers Health Project.”

Samuel Parrish, M.D., presented “Curricular Change – The Student Affairs Perspective.”

Arnold J. Smolen, Ph.D., Joanne Grossman, M.A., Margaret Graham, M.S., presented a poster entitled “Presenting Their Past: Women Physicians 1850–1960, Digitization of the Archives and Special Collections on Women in Medicine.”

Burton J. Landau, Ph.D., Kathleen F. Ryan, M.D., Cynthia L. Rabuck, M.L.S., M.A., Robin C. Smith, Arnold J. Smolen, Ph.D., George E. Zeiset, and Barbara A. Schindler, M.D., presented a poster entitled “Ensuring That Students at Drexel University College of Medicine Obtain a Comparable Clinical Clerkship Experience in a Given Discipline Regardless of Clinical Site.”

Gail S. Rudnitsky, M.D., Amy Fuchs, M.D., Mary Ann Kuzma, M.D., Dennis H. Novack, M.D., Diane Cohen, presented a poster entitled “Can an End of Second Year Clinical Skills Exam Predict End of Third Year Clinical Skills Performance?”

Diane Cohen, Dennis H. Novack, M.D., presented a poster entitled “Does a Prior Multi-Station Experience Enhance Performance on a Subsequent Multi-Station Clinical Skills Assessment?”

Mary Ann Kuzma, M.D., Michael Barrett, M.D., Diane Cohen, presented a poster entitled “Traditional Versus Acoustic Training in Cardiac Auscultation: Outcomes at 9 Months.”

Compliance Corner: HIPAA Security Reminder and Identity Theft



Edward G. Longazel
Chief Compliance Officer

The security provisions associated with HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) actually require the College of Medicine to provide ongoing reminders concerning our responsibility to respect and protect the confidentiality of protected individual information. Watch your networked PC for HIPAA reminders soon! We each have a responsibility to protect computer hardware and information technology resources from unauthorized access. All users with access to the College of Medicine and Drexel University networks are reminded to protect passwords and limit system access as appropriate. Each member of the network community is also required to report any breach of confidentiality. The loss of laptops, office break-ins and instances of suspected unauthorized access must be reported. Immediately after appropriate security and police authorities have been notified, the theft or loss of personally identifiable patient, student, employee or contractor information must be reported to the Chief Compliance and Privacy Officer: **Ed Longazel 215-762-2023** or **Elongaze@DrexelMed.edu**. The Privacy Officer will assist in early evaluation of information compromised and satisfaction of any existing state or federal requirements to provide notification to those who have had personal information compromised.

**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:

MLAS Graduates Land at MIT

Four graduates of the Master of Laboratory Animal Science Program (MLAS) Class of 2005 were recently hired at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Kristin Gaudio, Tara Gould, Irka Rivera, and Michael Gregory are now area supervisors for four separate laboratory animal facilities at MIT. The Animal Science Programs at Drexel University College of Medicine train students in laboratory animal management and help those interested in attending veterinary schools improve their credentials. MLAS graduates are in high demand to fill supervisory/managerial positions in laboratory animal facilities in academic institutions and the pharmaceutical industry.

“Ambassador for Change” Grant From HHS

The Institute for Women’s Health and Leadership at Drexel University College of Medicine is one of three National Centers of Excellence in Women’s Health to receive a grant and a new, additional designation as “Ambassador for Change” from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The award, which sites the institute for exemplary leadership, provides funding to the center to serve as a role model and clearinghouse for new and developing Centers of Excellence in Women’s Health.

Hunters’ Banquet Launches CWD Study

Researchers at Binghamton University are leading a study to determine the effect on humans of eating meat from animals infected with chronic wasting disease (CWD). The researchers will partner with the Oneida County [N.Y.] Health Department, which was notified that venison from infected deer had been served at a local sportsmen’s banquet attended by 350 people. Like “mad cow” disease, CWD is a transmissible spongiform encephalopathy that causes the animal’s brain to degenerate and eventually leads to death. There is no data suggesting that CWD can be transmitted to humans. The researchers would like to recruit at least 100 of the dinner guests for the study, which will monitor the participants’ health and take about six years to complete.

Calendar:

- January** *Cervical Health Awareness Month*
National Volunteer Blood Donor Month
- Jan 24 **Conversation About Women’s Health: For Men Only!**
Created and presented by Institute for Women’s Health & Leadership
Enterprise Center, 4548 Market Street, Philadelphia
Contact: 215-842-7041
- February** *Heart Health Month*
National Children’s Dental Health Month
- Feb 11 **Pediatric AIDS Benefit Concert**, produced by DUCOM students
College of Physicians/Mutter Museum
Contact: Marie Hartman, 215-991-8219
- Feb 15 **Arnold P. Gold Lectureship on Humanism in Medicine**
Speaker: Dr. D. Holmes Morton
4 pm, Geary Auditorium, New College Building
Contact: 215-762-8219
- Feb 18-20 **Mini-Medical School Presents “Journey into the Living Body”**
A video exhibit at the Franklin Institute
Contact: Peggy Lee, 215-762-6800
- Feb 27-28 **Viral Hepatitis Drug Discovery & Development Summit**
Hilton Boston Back Bay
For more information: www.srinstitute.com
- March** *National Multiple Sclerosis Education and Awareness Month*
National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month
- Mar 16 **Kate Hurd Mead Lecture: “Nursing the Great Society”**
Speaker: Joan Lynaugh, Ph.D., RN, FAAN
College of Physicians of Philadelphia
Contact: 215-842-7041
- Mar 28 *National Sleep Awareness Week*