

NEWSPAGER

Linking Technology to a Tradition of Caring™

Launching a Revolution in Laparoscopic Surgery

June 2007

Newsletter Volume 8, No. 4

In a first-of-its-kind procedure, Paul G. Curcillo II, M.D., FACS, Associate Professor and Vice Chair of the Department of Surgery, successfully removed a woman's gallbladder through a single incision in the patient's navel. Dr. Curcillo, who is also Director of Robotic and Minimally Invasive Surgery for the College, performed the world's first single port access (SPA) surgery in May, using RealHand laparoscopic instruments.

Traditional laparoscopic gallbladder removal requires three to four incisions, leaving obvious scarring. With Dr. Curcillo's creative expertise and the new instrumentation, the surgery left only a single, hidden scar.

"Fewer incisions are ultimately better for the patient in terms of the amount of discomfort and recovery time, not to mention the benefit of a hidden scar," Dr. Curcillo says.

The new high-dexterity instruments are engineered by Novare Surgical Systems, Cupertino, Calif. According to the company, RealHand instruments are the first full-range-of-motion handheld laparoscopic tools designed to mirror the surgeon's hand direction and provide tactile feedback. When the surgeon's hand moves in one direction, the tip of the instrument follows exactly.

Because of the articulation, Dr. Curcillo says, he can work with his hands next to each other and use his fingers and wrists in a much more natural manner than ordinary laparoscopic instruments allow. "From the surgeon's standpoint, it eliminates the reaching and broad arm movements commonly associated with laparoscopy, which are far from ergonomically ideal and can lead to fatigue."

Using the RealHand instrumentation, Dr. Curcillo was able to combine all of the standard laparoscopic entry points into one port of entry through the umbilicus. The incision was then closed with surgical glue.

Dr. Curcillo foresees holding training seminars at Drexel University College of Medicine. "The benefit of this technique and the new high-dexterity instrumentation is that it can be easily applied by all surgeons, gynecologists and urologists with minimal additional training. I believe it will truly revolutionize the way laparoscopic surgery is performed."

Contact: paul.curcillo@drexelmed.edu, 215-762-5577



Dr. Curcillo

New Director Discusses Live Donor Liver Transplantation at Hahnemann



Dr. Sass

More than 17,000 people in the United States are on the waiting list for a new liver, hoping that transplant surgery will prolong and improve their lives. Annually only 6,000 deceased-donor livers are available to answer this huge demand. As a result, about 1,400 people die each year while they wait.

An alternative to the traditional deceased donor transplant is live donor transplantation. Hahnemann University Hospital is one of only two facilities in

the Philadelphia region to offer this surgery. "Live donor transplant is a unique operation – a much more novel procedure than deceased donor transplants, which have been around since 40 years ago," says David A. Sass, M.D., Medical Director of the Center for Liver, Biliary and Pancreatic Diseases and Transplantation at Hahnemann, as well as Associate Chief of the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology in the Department of Medicine and Associate Professor of Medicine and Surgery at Drexel University College of Medicine (see Arrivals, page 10).

Three of the most common types of liver disease and leading indications for a transplant are hepatitis C, alcoholic liver disease, and fatty liver disease (also known as non-alcoholic steatohepatitis or NASH). Each of these diseases can progress to cirrhosis, deep scarring of the liver to the point of impaired function. "The natural progression in hepatitis C, for example," Dr. Sass explains, "is that the patient is infected with the virus, and then over a period of about 20 years, one-fifth of those patients will develop cirrhosis. Each year, a subset of those patients will go on to develop liver failure (or even liver cancer) at which point they are considered for transplantation." Before a patient reaches liver failure, however, there are several treatment options.

Numerous factors contribute to liver diseases. Although genetics play a role in certain liver disorders, environmental causes are much more common – hepatitis C and alcohol being the most prevalent. Most patients with hepatitis C became infected through the use of IV drugs or nasal cocaine; receiving an infected

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

Drexel Medicine's All-Stars

We have just said goodbye to the Class of 2007 and wished them well on their future professional journeys. Although Commencement will be the subject of the next *NewsPager*, I want to congratulate our newly minted alumni and the faculty who assisted their education. Happily, several of our new graduates will join us for their residency programs in a few weeks.

May issue of the magazine published a story on the treatment of pain, with a full-page feature on **Dr. Robert Schwartzman** (entitled "The Savior") and his use of ketamine. The other faculty recognized as Top Doctors are:

Cardiovascular Disease, Dr. Howard Eisen

Gynecologic Oncology, Dr. Stephanie King

Internal Medicine, Dr. Arnold Eiser

Medical Oncology, Dr. Robert Comis

Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine, Dr. Maria Delivoria-Papadopoulos

Ophthalmology, Dr. Gary Diamond

Obstetrics and Gynecology, Dr. Paul Nyirjesy

Otolaryngology, Dr. Robert Sataloff

Pediatric Infectious Disease, Dr. Sarah Long

Pediatric Pulmonology, Dr. Daniel Schidlow

Pediatric Surgery, Dr. Marshall Schwartz

Plastic Surgery, Dr. Paul Glat

Radiation Oncology, Dr. Lydia Komarnicky

Surgery, Dr. William Meyers

Thoracic Surgery, Dr. Michael Strong

Congratulations, doctors – it's wonderful to have so many players on the all-star team!

Dean's Office: 215-762-3500

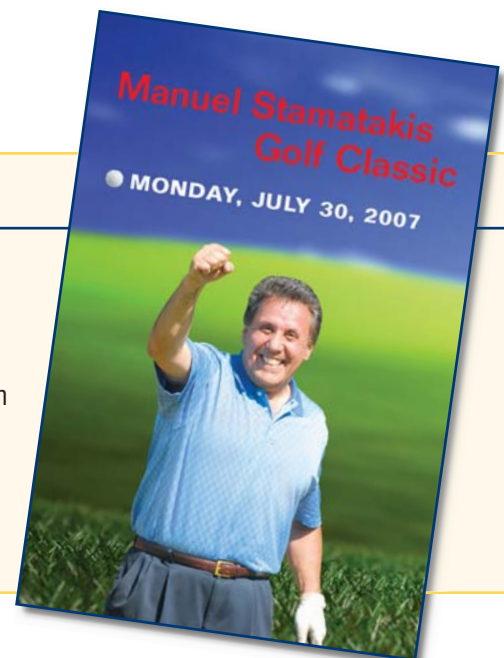
I am pleased to announce the appointment of **Daniel Benckart, M.D.**, as **Associate Dean, Academic Affairs, Allegheny Programs** of Drexel University College of Medicine. Dr. Benckart is an attending physician in the Department of Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgery at Allegheny General Hospital and an Associate Professor at our Allegheny campus. He will begin his new position on July 1. In his role, Dr. Benckart will oversee the undergraduate medical education program at Allegheny General Hospital, where 50 to 60 third- and fourth-year DUCOM medical students take required and elective clinical rotations. He will also serve as the faculty liaison between the Philadelphia and Pittsburgh campuses.

Philadelphia Magazine's Top Doctors list is billed as the gold standard for medical care in the Greater Philadelphia area. The methodology is designed to yield a list of the local doctors to whom other doctors say they would send their families, and many Philadelphians are true believers. As always, this year's edition includes several members of our College family. In a departure from its usual custom, the magazine posted the survey results on its website in a searchable database. In addition, the

Love to Golf? Make a Date – July 30!

The 2007 Manuel Stamatakis Golf Classic will be held on July 30 at the beautiful Philadelphia Country Club. Because we understand the importance of attracting outstanding future physicians to the College of Medicine regardless of their financial status, all proceeds from the Golf Classic will go to the Manuel N. Stamatakis Medical Education Scholarship Fund. In keeping with his commitment to the College, Chairman Stamatakis established this fund to support scholarships for academically talented medical students with demonstrated financial need. Please join us for a fun-filled event that also supports a fabulous cause.

Contact: 215-255-7327



What a Great Match!



**John Paul Malayil, Vilas Saldanha, Shay Myers,
Associate Dean Sam Parrish**



**Sahmon Fallahian,
Kate Thomas**

Dean Homan toasted the hard-working Class of 2007. Then the moment came to rip open their envelopes and celebrate with family and friends.



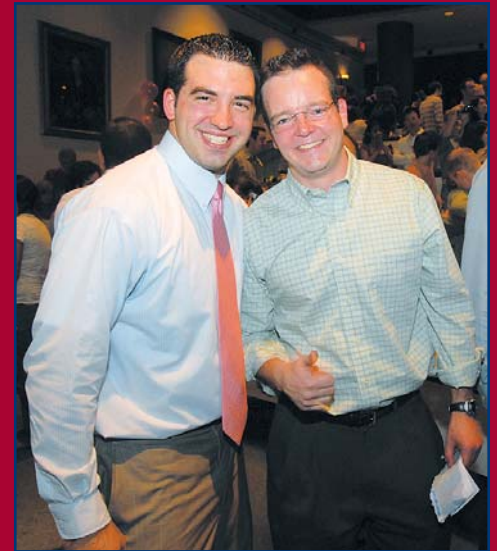
**Sonul Mehta,
Teresa Foo, Neetu Vasu**



**Vicki Derevyanny,
LaToya Floyd**



**Cheryl Bansal Turowski with
NBC 10 Medical Producer
Kathie McDermott**



James Blair, '08, Harry Goett



**Associate Professor Amy Fuchs,
Hirsch Mehta, Hao Tran**



**Harry Goett, Roald Llado,
Moshe Barnajian**



Dean Homan



Nadiv Samimi



**Mercedes Timko,
Professor Burt Landau**



Jen Han, Amanda Hargrove, Zarin Noor, Emily Shiver



April Weinberger, Elizabeth Stevenson, Jasia Hu



Dr. Berkson

David Berkson, M.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Family, Community and Preventive Medicine, presented a case study entitled “The PPD Trail,” and in addition served as a panelist in a separate presentation during the national meeting of the American Medical Society for Sports Medicine, held in April, in Albuquerque, N.M.



Dr. Nyirjesy

Paul Nyirjesy, M.D., Professor, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and colleagues, published an article entitled “The Effects of Intravaginal Clindamycin and Metronidazole Therapy on Vaginal Mobiluncus Morphotypes in Patients With Bacterial Vaginosis” in the April 2007 edition of *Sexually Transmitted Diseases*.

Christof Daetwyler M.D., Assistant Research Professor, Technology in Medical Education, and Clinical Skills Teaching and Assessment, co-chaired a panel discussion about curriculum at the April 2007 MedBiquitous Annual Conference in Baltimore, on “Enabling Collaboration for Healthcare Education.” Dr. Daetwyler also presented “DREXLO: A Novel Non-Linear Video-Based Media Format for the Teaching and Assessment of Procedural Medical Skills.”



Dr. Ramchandani

Dilip Ramchandani, M.D., Professor, Department of Psychiatry, Director of Undergraduate Psychiatric Education, and colleagues, published an article entitled “Meprobamate – Tranquilizer or Anxiolytic? A Historical Perspective” in the March 2006 edition of *Psychiatric Quarterly*. Dr. Ramchandani also published an article called “Psychiatric Assessment of Living Organ Donors for Renal Transplantation: Utility of the Defensive Functioning Scale” in the fall 2006 edition of *Bulletin of Menninger Clinic*.



Dr. Eskin

Bernard Eskin, M.D., Professor, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, recently published the fifth edition of his book, *The Menopause – Endocrinologic Basis and Management Options* (Taylor & Francis, 2007).



Dr. Schidlow

Daniel V. Schidlow, M.D., Professor and Chair, Department of Pediatrics, published an editorial entitled “Musings on the Nature of Academic Medical Leadership” in the March/April 2007 edition of *Physician Executive*.



Dr. Hong

Gene Hong, M.D., Chair, Family, Community and Preventive Medicine presented a talk on “Psychological Issues and the Injured Athlete” at April’s national meeting of the American Medical Society for Sports Medicine in Albuquerque, N.M.



Dr. Sherif

Katherine Sherif, M.D., Associate Professor, Director of the Center for Women’s Health, and colleagues, published an article entitled “Screening Mammography for Women 40 to 49 Years of Age: A Clinical Practice Guideline from the American College of Physicians” in the April 2007 edition of *Annals of Internal Medicine*. In addition, Dr. Sherif co-authored clinical guidelines for the American Heart Association on “Cardiovascular Disease Prevention and Treatment in Women” published in the April 2007 edition of *Circulation*.



Dr. Moreland

Robert S. Moreland, Ph.D., Professor in the Department of Pharmacology and Physiology, recently published a paper entitled “Ionizing Non-Fatal Whole-Body Irradiation Inhibits Ca²⁺-dependent K⁺ Currents in Endothelial Cells of Rat Coronary Artery: Possible Contribution to Depression of Endothelium-Dependent Vascular Relaxation” in the March 2007 edition of *International Journal of Radiation Biology*.



Dr. Taylor



Dr. Cruz

Daniel R. Taylor, D.O., Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics, and **Mario Cruz, M.D.**, third-year resident, were co-authors of an article entitled “Preparing Your Office for Emergencies—The

Psychosocial Kind” in the February 2007 edition of *Contemporary Pediatrics*.



Dr. Varjavand

Nielufar Varjavand, M.D., Assistant Professor, Division of Medical Education, submitted an abstract entitled “Facilitating Re-entry to Clinical Medicine: Responding to the Challenge” that was accepted for the Federation of State Medical Boards’ Annual Meeting to be held in May, in San Francisco. This abstract regards work with the Drexel Medicine® Physician Refresher Course.

Pre-Pre-Med Students?



Junior and senior high school students from AP biology classes at Philadelphia’s Masterman magnet school came to Drexel University College of Medicine’s gross anatomy lab on March 27 to get their first taste of what being a medical student entails. The group of 14 teenagers were given white coats to wear over scrubs to experience, first hand, what it takes to study on real cadavers. Our medical students, like Gregory Smith (far right in photo), became teachers for a day, as they took the time to explain their understanding of the human body to interested adolescents. These 11th and 12th graders came from a program that targets young students interested in health professions.

New Director Discusses Live Donor Liver Transplantation...continued

blood transfusion (before 1990, when screening began); or being tattooed with nonsterile instruments.

While some liver diseases are purely genetic, genetics can play a role in the “lifestyle” diseases as well, Dr. Sass says. “In some cases the patient’s genetic constitution probably has a modifying role in the development of advanced liver disease.” He points to the fact that some individuals can drink large amounts of alcohol without developing liver disease whereas others will develop cirrhosis after consuming far lesser quantities.

Patients with liver disease without established cirrhosis do not require a transplant. Yet once the liver has become so damaged as to produce cirrhosis and liver failure, the patient ought to be evaluated to assess whether he or she is a potential candidate for transplantation. At Hahnemann University Hospital, this is a rigorous process involving the entire liver transplant team, comprising a hepatologist, transplant surgeon, social worker, psychologist, anesthesiologist and many other consultative services. Once the patient has been approved as a transplant candidate, the wait for a suitable donor begins. (The United Network for Organ Sharing has developed a system for prioritizing the list of candidates according to the Model for End-Stage Liver Disease, which predicts how urgently the patient needs a liver transplant within the next three months.)

Living-donor liver transplantation has been developed in the United States in the last decade or so to help overcome the organ donor shortage and save lives. The liver is the only organ in the body with a very high capacity to regenerate, so that one can

remove half a donor liver, transplant it to a recipient, and within a year, both the donor liver and the recipient liver will grow to almost normal size. (This is frequently a good option for children, since they are smaller and require a proportionately smaller organ.)

The benefits of this mode of transplantation are twofold. First, once a donor has volunteered, and passed a lengthy evaluation, the transplant procedure can be scheduled at the parties’ convenience. Second, the recipient may receive a liver transplant before the disease has progressed, which often enables a better outcome.

Following liver transplantation, the nationwide survival rate is 80 percent to 90 percent in the first year, depending on the severity of the liver disease and other factors. After five years, the rate is 70 percent to 80 percent. Dr. Sass compares the transplant survival rate to the alternative – if a patient with cirrhosis develops ascites, fluid in the abdomen, and does not receive a transplant, “the two-year survival rate is about 50%.”

Timely referrals from primary care physicians are important. “Transplants are only one part of the picture,” Dr. Sass notes. “Patients who have established cirrhosis should be referred for evaluation. There’s no harm in referring somebody ‘too early.’ We provide state-of-the-art medical management and regular screening for varices and liver cancer. Then if the disease progresses, we can facilitate the transition to transplantation quickly.”

Contact: Hahnemann Center for Liver, Biliary and Pancreatic Diseases and Transplantation, 215-762-3900



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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

'40s

Kermit K. Kistler, M.D., HU '43, was highlighted in an article, "It's Always a Beautiful Day for Seeing Patients: 91-year-old Allentown Ophthalmologist Is Active in Retirement," in the Morning Call newspaper. Although Dr. Kistler is 91 years old, he is on active-retirement status as an ophthalmologist and still sees an occasional patient.

'60s

Alexander Haselkorn, M.D., HU '65, was honored by Barnert Hospital for over 35 years of continuous service to the Barnert and Paterson, N.J. communities. Dr. Haselkorn was originally a general surgeon but now limits his practice to hand surgery. At Barnert, he has served as President of the Medical Staff and Chairman of the Department of Surgery. Barnert Hospital honored Dr. Haselkorn by naming the Hand Service Center at Barnert the Louis and Edith Haselkorn Hand Service, after Dr. Haselkorn's parents.

Kristen Ries, M.D., WMC '67 and Former Resident, was featured in *Q Salt Lake*, a Salt Lake City newspaper, in an article focusing on her work with HIV/AIDS. Dr. Ries is the Director of Clinical Services, Division of Infectious Diseases, at the University of Utah and the Medical Director of Clinic 1A at the University of Utah Hospitals and Clinics. She is also a Professor of Medicine at the University of Utah.

'70s

Andrew S. Levin, M.D., HU '73, was elected President of the Medical Staff of Holyoke Medical Center. He has been a member of the HMC Executive Committee since 1995 and was previously the Vice President and Secretary/Treasurer of the Medical Staff. Dr. Levin also maintains a full-time private practice in Holyoke, Mass.

Marion Childs, M.D., MCP '77, wrote an article called "Health Screenings for Baby Boomers," for the Phoenixville News. Dr. Childs is an Internist at Phoenixville Hospital.

Thomas R. Himes, M.D., MCP '77, joined Pathology Associates of NEPA in Dunmore, Pa., as an Associate Pathologist. Before retiring from the Navy, he served as the head of anatomic pathology at the Naval Medical Center.

'80s

Earl E. Sands, M.D., HU '82, has been named Vice President of Research and Development for Solvay Pharmaceuticals Inc. Dr. Sands will oversee all U.S.-based compound research and drug development in the company's therapeutic areas of cardio-metabolic, neuroscience, influenza vaccines, gastroenterology, and men's and women's health.

Timothy Weibel, M.D., HU '86, was listed in the "Who's Who" of the San Jose, California *Business Journal*. Dr. Weibel was recognized as a top doctor in the San Jose area and is best known

for his cosmetic breast and abdominal procedures. He is with Advanced Aesthetic and Plastic Surgery Medical Center in Los Gatos, Calif.

Steven B. Hopson, M.D., FACS, MCP '89, a board-certified surgeon, has been appointed to the Board of Directors at Mary Immaculate Hospital located in Newport News, Va. Dr. Hopson is a physician with Tidewater Physicians Multispecialty Group.

James L. Dean, M.D., FACP, MCP '88, was promoted to Medical Director for the Philadelphia Department of Public Health and now works in the Office of the Health Commissioner. As Medical Director, Dr. Dean provides technical direction to the medical directors of each of the individual program components within the department. Dr. Dean is board certified in Internal Medicine and Infectious Diseases and is credentialed as an HIV Specialist. He has worked within the Health Department since completing his fellowship.

'90s

Lee A. Surkin, M.D., FAAC, HU '91, developed Cardiac Wellness Supplements that are scheduled to launch in July 2007. The Supplements are designed to complement, not replace, standard cardiovascular disease prevention and treatment therapies. In 2004, Dr. Surkin founded Cardiac Wellness Specialists in Eastern, N.C.

Kimberly Cuomo, M.D., HU '94, a pediatric specialist, was granted active staff membership with clinical admitting privileges in the Department of Pediatrics at Peninsula Regional Medical Center in Salisbury, Maryland.

Monique M. Sherrill, M.D., HU '96, a pediatrician, was selected as the January Physician of the Month at Holzer Medical Center in Gallipolis, Ohio.

Sabriya Ishaof, M.D., MCP '98, an obstetrician and gynecologist, joined Oswego County Ob-Gyn P.C. and the medical staff at Oswego Hospital in Oswego, N.Y.

Jennifer Keates Baleeiro, M.D., MCPHU '99, a pediatric oncologist, recently joined the T.C. Thompson Children's Hospital Hematology-Oncology Clinic staff in Chattanooga, Tenn.

Lorie M. Johnson, M.D., MCPHU '99, has joined Easton Hospital's medical staff in the Obstetrics and Gynecology Department. She is also affiliated with the private practice Easton Area Obstetrics & Gynecology in Palmer Township, Pa.

Former Residents

James Guille, M.D., Resident MCPHU '01, a member of the medical staff at Pottstown Memorial Medical Center, Department of Surgery – Orthopaedics, wrote an article called, "Check Your Children For Scoliosis; Early Detection Means More Effective Treatment," for the Pottstown newspaper, *The Mercury*. Dr. Guille is in private practice with Brandywine Institute of Orthopedics in Pottstown, Pa.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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



Richard Shoemaker, M.D., Resident CoM '06, joined the emergency medicine staff at Pottstown Memorial Medical Center in Pottstown, Pa.

Jorge Gonzalez, M.D., Resident HU '89 and '91, a neurologist, opened an outpatient neurology clinic inside Elliott Medical Plaza in Pryor, Okla. Dr. Gonzalez has special interests in neurological rehabilitation, Parkinson's disease and other movement disorders. In addition, he is an Assistant Professor of Neurology at Oklahoma State University College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Louis E. Guida, Jr., M.D., FCCP, Resident HU '90, Medical Director of the Cystic Fibrosis and Family Asthma and Allergy Center at Good Samaritan Hospital Medical Center, was recently honored by the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation at its 34th annual Breath of Life Gala. Dr. Guida is also the Medical Director of the Bay Shore Allergy Group.

Koteswari Kanchari, M.D., Resident HU '96 and '05, joined the Department of Internal Medicine at Pottstown Memorial Medical Center. In addition, Dr. Kanchari has a private practice at the Pottstown Medical Specialists Inc.

Alumni Association 2007 Awards

MCP Achievement Award

Susan McLeer, M.D. (WMC '70)

HU Distinguished Alumnus

Loretta Finnegan, M.D. (HU '64)

Graduate Citation

Herman Friedman, Ph.D. (HU '57)

Boots Cooper

Sandra Hullett, M.D. (MCP '76)

Outstanding Teacher

Howard Miller, M.D. (HU '74)

Outstanding Entrepreneur

Walter Lomax, Jr., M.D. (HU '57)

In Memoriam:

Pauline Cooke, M.D., MCP '41, a resident of Cambridge, Mass., died at age 90 on April 21. A specialist in brain activity, Dr. Cooke dedicated much of her time to the advancement of neurological science. At one point in her career, Dr. Cooke smuggled an extract made from electric eels from the United States to Great Britain so her British colleague could study electroconvulsive therapy. She enjoyed studying the human brain and, for many years, worked as an electroencephalographer. A native of Chicago, Dr. Cooke finished high school at age 15, but area colleges would not take her until she turned 17. She took premed courses while earning her bachelor's degree at the University of Chicago. She served as an electroencephalographer at Mercy Hospital in Chicago for about 15 years, working at the same time for St. Francis Hospital in Evanston, Ill., and interpreting EEGs part-time for other hospitals. In addition, she helped teach neuroanatomy at Northwestern University and had a private psychiatry and neurology practice. In the 1960s, she worked at the Medical College of South Carolina as a clinical associate in the Department of Psychiatry and as a research associate in the Department of Neurology. Dr. Cooke is survived by her daughter, Karen Cooke Norton and son, Kevin, a granddaughter, a grandson, and two great-grandchildren.

Wilson A. Foust, Sr., M.D., HMC '29, of Lititz, Pa., formerly of New Holland, died April 21, at Brethren Village, Lititz, where

he had lived since 1986. During WWII he served as a major in the U.S. Air Force in the 62nd Air Service Group. In 1931, Dr. Foust began his medical practice in New Holland and in 1938, operated the New Holland Maternity Home. In 1937, he helped organize the Ephrata Community Hospital and received numerous service awards for medical and community activities. After 59 years of actively practicing medicine, Dr. Foust retired in 1990 and was awarded the Lancaster General Hospital Award for 43 years of unselfish and dedicated service to the Allergy Clinic. He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth (Logue) Fischer Foust, two sons, Wilson A. Foust, Jr. and Robert S. Foust, two stepdaughters, Donna R. Scherpf and Virginia F. Deamer; 10 step-grandchildren; 22 step-great grandchildren; and 15 step-great-great grandchildren. Memorial contributions to Drexel University College of Medicine may be sent to Ann Hagan, Institutional Advancement, Suite 11489, 1601 Cherry St., Philadelphia, PA 19102-1192 (note donation to Dr. and Mrs. Wilson A. Foust Medical Scholarship Fund).

Jean Salines, M.D., HU '45, of Blue Bell, Pa., passed away on April 14, at age 86. Formerly of South Philadelphia and Allentown, Dr. Salines was a member of the first class of women graduates from Hahnemann University. Wife of the late Dominic J. Salines, M.D., she is survived by her daughters, Jo-Anne Diehl and Marianne Cashman, and 5 grandchildren.

Send alumni notes to Patty Comey at pcomey@drexelmed.edu or mail to: College of Medicine Office of Alumni Relations Suite 11489, 1601 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102

Alumni Relations Office: 215-255-7341
Toll Free: 866-373-9633
Website: www.drexelmed.edu/alumni



Dr. Block

Timothy Block, Ph.D., Professor, Department of Biotechnology & Virology, has been selected to receive the Central Bucks Chamber of Commerce 2007 Lifetime Achievement Humanitarian Award. Dr. Block has touched numerous lives locally, nationally and internationally, as the co-founder and volunteer president of the Hepatitis B Foundation.



Dr. Curcillo

Paul G. Curcillo II, M.D., FACS, Associate Professor and Vice Chairman of the Department of Surgery, has been elected President of the Metropolitan Philadelphia Chapter of the American College of Surgeons.



Dr. Delivoria-Papadopoulos

Maria Delivoria-Papadopoulos, M.D., Professor of Pediatrics, has been inducted into the "Legends in Neonatology" Hall of Fame. This honor was announced at the national NEO, the Conference in Neonatology that was held in February, in Orlando, Fla. The award recognizes the great female pioneers in neonatology who have made a lifelong contribution to the well-being of infants worldwide.

Adam Leman, graduate student in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, won Drexel University's 2007 Research, Innovation, Scholarship and Creativity (RISC) Day Award in Graduate Biological and Biomedical Research. Leman's poster presentation was titled "The Timeless and Tipin Protein Complex Preserves Genomic Integrity and Is Involved in Chromosome Cohesion."



Dr. Nyirjesy

Paul Nyirjesy, M.D., Professor, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, served as one of the consultants for the Centers of Disease Control in their preparation of the 2006 *Sexually Transmitted Diseases Treatment Guidelines*. This important document is the single most-used reference on the treatment of STDs in the world.



Dr. Gelo

Florence Gelo, M.D., Associate Professor, Department of Family, Community, and Preventive Medicine was called to Virginia Tech, after the shootings there, with a group of college therapists for grief counseling. Dr. Gelo spent a week on campus speaking to students and families and was especially moved by the outpouring of feelings from the residents of Blacksburg, Va.



Dr. Greenberg

Dr. Michael Greenberg Voted President-elect for AACT

Michael I. Greenberg, M.D., MPH, has been chosen as President-elect for the American Academy of Clinical Toxicology. He will assume the office immediately and become president during the 2008 North American Congress of Clinical Toxicology meeting in Toronto. A four-year member of the AACT Board of

Trustees, Dr. Greenberg will serve as president until 2009. In that position he will lead the not-for-profit multidisciplinary organization by uniting scientists and clinicians in the advancement of research, education, prevention and treatment of diseases and disorders caused by chemicals, drugs and toxins. His vision for the future includes increasing AACT's service to the public's health through education and sponsorship of research, and developing expanded opportunities for all professionals involved in clinical toxicology.

A faculty member of Drexel University College of Medicine since 1979, Dr. Greenberg is a Professor of Emergency Medicine and Chief of the Division of Medical Toxicology at the College. He is also the Program Director for the Medical Toxicology Fellowship Training Program at DUCOM. In addition, he is a Professor at the University's School of Public Health.

Throughout his career, Dr. Greenberg has been a major contributor to the advancement of diagnosing and treating poisonings. His involvement with numerous local and nationwide associations, foundations, medical journals, community programs, various divisions and departments of the U.S. government and service branches are testaments to his commitment to his profession. Congratulations, Dr. Greenberg, on your latest appointment.

Contact: michael.greenberg@drexelmed.edu

Golden Apple and Golden Stethoscope Winners

Every year, Drexel medical students award Golden Apples and Golden Stethoscopes for Best Faculty. Nominations are collected from the student body for each of the award categories (see below). Each person must receive more than one nomination from the student body to be considered for an award. After a list of nominees is compiled, last year's winners are removed (back-to-back wins are not permitted) and then electronic voting begins on the Student Government Association website. Awards are made by each class and curricular track.



Left to right (front): O'Connor, Hanau, Hartman, Schwartz, Ferrier, Puglia, Weingarten, Harding; (back) Newman, Hasni, Levine, Campbell, Cruz, Gopaldas, Jenci, Atogho, Rezvani, Massaro

CONGRATULATIONS!

NON-TEACHING AWARDS

Mr. Reo Campbell – Financial Aid Office
Student Government Award

Ms. Marie Hartman – Student Affairs Office
Student Body Award

CLASS OF 2010



Alisa Monticelli and Dr. Ferrier

Dr. Denise Ferrier – Biochemistry (IFM*)

Dr. Francis Sessler – Neurobiology and Anatomy (PIL*)

CLASS OF 2009

Dr. Cheryl Hanau – Pathology (IFM)

Dr. Charles Puglia – Pharmacology and Physiology (PIL)

CLASS OF 2008

Dr. Joseph Jenci – Ob/Gyn
Saint Peter's University Hospital
Attending Award

Dr. Robert Massaro – Ob/Gyn
Monmouth Medical Center
Attending Award

Dr. Marc Newman – Family Medicine, Manayunk
Attending Award

Dr. Michael Weingarten – Surgery
Hahnemann University Hospital
Attending Award

Dr. Giuseppe Chiossi – Ob/Gyn
Allegheny General Hospital
Resident Award



Heath Dreyfuss and Dr. Weingarten

Dr. Raja Gopaldas – Surgery
Easton Hospital
Resident Award

Dr. Jonas Mansson – Surgery
Monmouth Medical Center
Resident Award

Dr. Masoud Rezvani – Surgery
Abington Hospital
Resident Award

CLASS OF 2007

Dr. Susan Harding – Surgery
Hahnemann University Hospital
Attending Award

Dr. Farhan Hasni – Medicine
Hahnemann University Hospital
Attending Award

Dr. Leonard Levine – Adolescent Medicine
St. Christopher's Hospital for Children
Attending Award

Dr. Nadine Schwartz – Child Psychiatry
St. Christopher's Hospital for Children
Attending Award

Dr. Ata Atogho – Ob/Gyn
Hahnemann University Hospital
Resident Award

Dr. Mario Cruz – Pediatrics
St. Christopher's Hospital for Children
Resident Award

Dr. Harish Manyam – Medicine
Allegheny General Hospital
Resident Award

Dr. Patrick O'Connor – Anesthesia
Hahnemann University Hospital
Resident Award

*Curricular paths: Interdisciplinary Foundations of Medicine; Program for Integrated Learning



Dr. Hamilton

Jennifer Hamilton, M.D., Ph.D., joined Drexel University College of Medicine as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Family, Community and Preventive Medicine, Division of Family Medicine. Dr. Hamilton earned her medical degree from Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, and her Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering from Rutgers University. Prior to joining the College,

Dr. Hamilton served as a physician at Plainfield (N.J.) Health Center, seeing patients in ob/gyn, adult medicine and pediatrics. In 2006, she was awarded the George Family Foundation Young Researcher Award for work presented at the North American Research Conference on Complementary and Integrative Medicine. Dr. Hamilton has published several manuscripts, has several more in the works and is a reviewer for *Annals of Family Medicine* and the *Journal of the American Board of Family Medicine*.

Department of Family, Community and Preventive Medicine: 215-482-4744



Dr. Jost

Monika Jost, Ph.D., has been named an Assistant Professor in the Department of Family, Community and Preventive Medicine. She has been a Research Assistant Professor (volunteer faculty) in Radiation Oncology since 2002. Dr. Jost also works closely with Tenet's Flow Cytometry Facility and, until November 2006, was a senior scientist with SymbioTec, a German biotech company.

Dr. Jost earned her Ph.D. in biology and her Master of Sciences in microbiology, genetics and biochemistry at the University of Saarland, Germany, and completed a postdoctoral fellowship in the Department of Dermatology and Cutaneous Biology at Thomas Jefferson University. She has co-authored 18 studies, on many of which she was the lead author, as well as numerous abstracts and conference presentations. She is a member of the Society of Biological Chemistry.

Department of Family, Community and Preventive Medicine: 215-482-4744



Dr. Ledley

Gary S. Ledley, M.D., has joined the College of Medicine as a Professor in the Department of Medicine, Division of Cardiology. Prior to joining the College, Dr. Ledley served as an interventional cardiologist at the Philadelphia Albert Einstein Medical Center for 16 years. He received his undergraduate degree in biomedical engineering from Johns Hopkins University and his medical degree from

Georgetown University. Dr. Ledley completed a medical residency and cardiology fellowship at Georgetown University Hospital. He continued his training in angioplasty and interventional cardiology through a fellowship at Brown University and Rhode Island Hospital. Specializing in invasive and interventional

cardiology as well as general cardiology, Dr. Ledley is certified in all aspects of the treatment of coronary and peripheral vascular disease. He has been involved in 30 research trials and has published and presented extensively. Dr. Ledley serves on several editorial boards and is a reviewer for the *American Journal of Cardiology*.

Department of Medicine: 215-762-2514



Dr. Minugh-Purvis

Nancy Minugh-Purvis, Ph.D., has joined the College of Medicine as an Associate Professor of Anatomical Sciences in the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine. Dr. Minugh-Purvis has a special interest in craniofacial biology and skeletal morphogenesis. She earned her doctorate in anthropology from the University of Pennsylvania, completed a postdoctoral

fellowship in anthropology at Penn, and later continued her training in molecular biology of skeletal tissues at Thomas Jefferson University School of Medicine. In addition to her position with the College, Dr. Minugh-Purvis serves as a growth specialist at the Facial Reconstruction Center at Children's Hospital and as a research associate at the University Museum of Archeology and Anthropology. In addition, Dr. Minugh-Purvis is the lead editor of a book called *Human Evolution Through Developmental Change*, (Johns Hopkins University Press). She has published more than 40 articles, chapters and book reviews and made dozens of podium and poster presentations.

Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine: 215-762-8941



Dr. Sass

David Sass, M.D., FACP, has joined the College of Medicine as Associate Professor of Medicine and Surgery in the Department of Medicine, and Associate Chief of the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology. Dr. Sass was also appointed Medical Director of the Center for Liver, Biliary and Pancreatic Diseases and Transplantation at Hahnemann University Hospital. A graduate of the

University of Cape Town Medical School, Dr. Sass completed his residency and chief residency at Albert Einstein Medical Center, a fellowship in gastroenterology, hepatology and nutrition at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, and a fellowship in transplantation hepatology, also at Pittsburgh. Prior to coming here, Dr. Sass served as Assistant Professor of Medicine, Associate Director of the Gastroenterology Fellowship Program and Director of the Hepatology Fellowship Program at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, which has one of the largest liver transplant programs in the country. Dr. Sass has published more than 60 research articles, reviews, book chapters, abstracts and posters. (Also see cover story.)

Department of Medicine: 215-762-2514

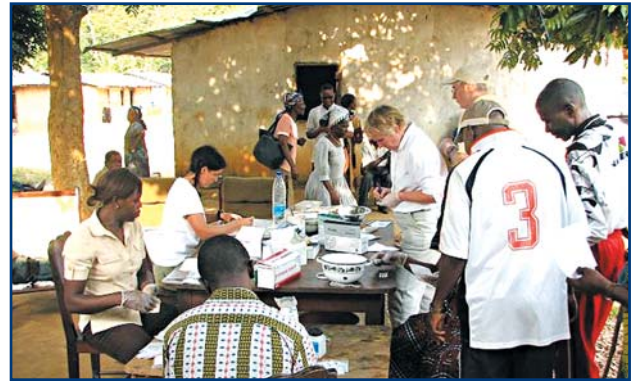
Dr. Swaney Presents Seminar on GM Foods in Cameroon

“Health care delivery in rural Africa is a completely different challenge from what we teach in the lecture halls,” says John Swaney, Ph.D., a Professor in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, who visited Cameroon recently to address local physicians on nutrition issues. Accompanying a medical team to a remote village as a part of a volunteer group that included personnel from the American Embassy, along with local physicians and nurses, he received a first-hand impression of the problems in providing medical and surgical services to people who may not have access to such services more than one or two times a year. These teams function strictly on a pro-bono basis and depend upon contributions to pay for the medical supplies consumed on these trips, which can last from two days to two weeks.

Dr. Swaney, who is the Course Director for the medical nutrition course given to first-year medical students, was asked to present a seminar as a part of the U.S. Embassy’s outreach program to provide continuing medical education to local healthcare workers while he was in Cameroon to visit his son, who is the Chief Consul at that embassy. The seminar addressed vitamin A deficiency and its prevention.

Vitamin A deficiencies are widespread in Africa and Asia, and account for 1 million to 3 million infant deaths each year and hundreds of thousands of instances of childhood blindness worldwide. A focus of his presentation was on “Golden Rice,” a genetically-modified rice that produces large quantities of a vitamin A precursor and which could provide sufficient quantities of the vitamin to prevent deficiency symptoms. Dr. Swaney also presented a related seminar to the students and faculty at the medical school in Yaoundé, the capital of Cameroon.

“The current strategy of public health programs in developing countries, in which massive vitamin A supplements are given to



Kristie Swaney, seated at left rear, Nancy Swaney, R.N., standing at right, and, behind her, John Swaney, Ph.D., assist local health care workers in dispensing pharmaceuticals to support physician consultations in the Cameroon village of Sas.

young children every 6 months, is not a sustainable or long-term solution to problems of vitamin A deficiency,” Dr. Swaney says. As he sees it, “Genetically-modified (GM) foods provide the most logical approach to ameliorating the nutritional shortages prevalent in Third World countries.” Arrangements are in place to provide seeds at no cost to local farmers to cross-breed with local varieties of rice. However, there is resistance toward GM foods in many of the countries that would benefit from these fortified agricultural products, so education is needed to promote an understanding of the benefits and risks of their adoption. Dr. Swaney says he hopes that a forthright and informed discussion of the topic with local health professionals is the first step toward overcoming reluctance to adopt GM foods that can economically improve nutritional health not only with respect to vitamin A, but also in adding other vitamins and minerals, as well as protein.

Contact: john.swaney@drexelmed.edu

Compliance Corner

The Annual Compliance Audit Cycle



Edward G. Longazel
Chief Compliance Officer

The compliance audit cycle follows a calendar-year schedule. Each year, as spring arrives, the Corporate Compliance Office updates active clinician rosters and begins the process of scheduling the annual review of 15 to 20 services per clinician for documentation and coding accuracy.

A week of services is usually held for review, and a sample is drawn from that group for consideration in the audit. The process renders a summary of accuracy found during the review. A passing score moves the clinician on to scheduling for the following year’s review. A mediocre level of accuracy calls for immediate follow-up and education. A poor score for accuracy in matching coding with documentation triggers a period of concurrent review and intensive education, with all charges held for review until competency is attained.

The Compliance Office and program celebrated seven years of service on April 13, 2007. The office is currently staffed with three compliance analysts and a Director of Compliance Services. All audit staff are certified in coding. The staff reviews over 5,000 services per year, completing a combined total of 250 initial, follow-up and concurrent reviews. Additionally the compliance analysts provide research and review services for coding issues and assist in conducting investigations driven by hotline reports or annual audit results.

Drexel Med Confidential Hotline: 866-936-1010; Confidential Website Hotline: www.drexelmed.edu, click *Faculty and Staff Resources*, then *Compliance Hotline*. Training requests: 215-762-2023

Suite 11484, 1601 Cherry Street
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Bulletins:

Novartis Representatives to Discuss Approach to Research

On June 11, during the Clinical Research Committee meeting at Drexel University College of Medicine, from 12 to 2 p.m., Novartis Pharmaceutical representative Dr. Richard Petrustky and colleagues will present on their developing pipeline and approach to clinical research. There will also be discussion on potential grant opportunities for basic science as well as clinical investigators. Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP to Donna Jones at **215-762-3945**, or donna.jones@drexelmed.edu.

Women's Health Research at a Crossroads

Learn about the latest studies affecting women's health by attending "Crossroads Conversation" on June 21 at 5:30 p.m. at the Union League of Philadelphia. The no-speeches, all questions-and-answers session will address the scarcity of new drugs specific to women, the need for increased studies of gender differences in health, and why it is difficult to get venture capital for research on women's health needs. Sponsors include the Women's Law Project, the Association of Women in Science, and Drexel's School of Public Health, College of Law, College of Nursing and Health Professions, and College of Arts and Sciences. For more information, contact **215-255-7373** or iwhl@drexelmed.edu.

"Puff City" Program Empowers Urban Teens with Asthma

African American teenagers using a targeted web-based tutorial learned to self-manage their asthma conditions far better than those who used four nationally recognized asthma education websites. The interactive program, known as Puff City, gathers information on the individual's characteristics and attitudes, and selects appropriate messages accordingly. Puff City participants missed 60 percent fewer schooldays, required 50 percent fewer hospitalizations and made 50 percent fewer emergency room visits. To read the complete Henry Ford Health System study, refer to the May 1 issue of *Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine*.

Calendar:

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| June | <i>Home Safety Month</i> |
| Jun 1 | Sixth Annual Faculty Development Day Keynote Address: Carol Ashenbrenner, M.D. Executive Vice President, AAMC Queen Lane Campus |
| Jun 3-9 | <i>National Headache Awareness Week & Sun Safety Week</i> |
| Jun 11 | Clinical Research Committee Special Presentation (See bulletin at left.) |
| Jun 16 | Drexel University Commencement |
| Jun 20 | Conversation About Women's Health Philadelphia Senior Center 509 S. Broad Street, Philadelphia, 10-11:30 a.m. |
| Jun 21 | Women's Health Research at a Crossroads (See bulletin at left.) |
| Jun 25-29 | Junior Orientation |
| July | |
| Jul 30 | Manuel Stamatakis Golf Classic Philadelphia Country Club Contact: 215-255-7330 |
| August | <i>UV Safety Month</i> |
| Aug 3 | First-Year Orientation |
| Aug 8 | Classes begin |
| September | <i>National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month</i> <i>National Sickle Cell Month</i> |
| Sep 21 | <i>World Alzheimer's Day</i> |
| October | <i>National Breast Cancer Awareness Month</i> <i>National Celiac Disease Awareness Month</i> |
| Oct 19 | <i>National Mammography Day</i> |
| November | <i>American Diabetes Month</i> <i>National Healthy Skin Month</i> |
| Nov 15 | <i>Great American Smokeout</i> |
| December | |
| Dec 1 | <i>World AIDS Day</i> |
| Dec 1-7 | <i>National Handwashing Awareness Week</i> |
| Dec 6 | Marion Spencer Fay Award Lecture: Geary Auditorium, New College Building, 4:30 p.m. Reception: Horizons Ballroom at the Sheraton, 5:30 p.m. Contact: 215-255-7373 |